

Mubarak against any Halaib deal — reports

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak is against any compromise in Egypt's border dispute with Sudan over the potentially oil-rich Halaib triangle, Egyptian newspapers reported Wednesday. They quoted Mr. Mubarak as telling leaders of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) Tuesday that Egypt would not "compromise an inch of land in the dispute" over Halaib, on the southeastern edge of its border with Sudan.

The Halaib dispute flared in January, further worsening already strained ties between Cairo and Khartoum's military rulers, who came to power in 1989 closely linked to Muslim fundamentalists and have developed strong ties with Iran. Sudan granted a Canadian oil company exploration rights last December in territory which Cairo administrators and considers to be Egyptian. A senior Egyptian oil official told Reuters this week Egypt would offer concessions in the same area as planned at the end of this month, Egyptian newspapers reported Mr. Mubarak as saying a joint Sudanese-Egyptian committee on Halaib would meet, without giving a date. The committee met in April but failed to make any substantive progress on the issue.

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Regent honours Abdullah Touqan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday received former Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology Abdullah Touqan. Prince Hassan presented Dr. Touqan with Al Istiklal Medal of the Second Order in appreciation of his services. Dr. Touqan, who is succeeded at the HCST by Dr. Rami Mulki, also heads the Royal Scientific Society, serves now as an advisor to His Majesty King Hussein. The meeting was attended by Dr. Mulki and senior HCST officials.

Jordan remains under heatwave

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom Wednesday continued to remain under the effect of a heatwave extending from a hot air mass centred over the Arabian Peninsula, the Meteorology Department said. The department said record temperatures were registered in downtown Amman and other areas. It said temperatures in downtown Amman recorded 40.5 degrees Celsius on Tuesday when the heatwave reached its climax, while in mountainous areas it recorded 38.4. Temperatures in Aqaba, desert areas and the Jordan Valley reached 42.2, the department said. It said the heatwave was expected to ease Thursday evening.

Jordan, Lebanon offer to host ESCWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) currently meeting in Amman received offers by the Jordanian and Lebanese governments to host the permanent headquarters for the U.N. agency. The commission will decide on the issue Thursday, according to its Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar. ESCWA was based in Beirut until the Lebanese civil war forced it to move to Baghdad. The Gulf crisis and the ensuing war prompted its move to Amman in 1991. In its Wednesday meeting, the commission discussed its executive secretary's report, draft resolutions on the 1990-91 working plans and following up on the implementation of resolutions adopted in the past.

Gunmen kill PLO officer in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen killed a military commander of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Beirut Wednesday, the latest in a wave of attacks against Palestinian officials in Lebanon, police said. Two gunmen fired 17 bullets from their pistols at 45-year-old Hani Zuhdi Al Dubaiki, a PLO lieutenant-colonel, in the western sector of the capital. Col. Dubaiki died on the spot, police said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Several Palestinian officials have been killed recently in a power struggle between the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, and the PLO's mainstream Fatah group.

Israeli police arrest Ethiopian immigrants

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police arrested at least 16 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants Wednesday as they demonstrated for equal religious rights near Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office, a police spokesman said. They were arrested after a shoving match between police and scores of Ethiopian protesters, among them about 30 kesim, or religious leaders, who chanted slogans, prayed and sang. "Sixteen demonstrators have been arrested this far today," the spokesman said.

Bush approves F-16 sale to Taiwan

BOARD AIR FORCE ONE (R) — U.S. President George Bush has decided to lift a decade-old ban on the sale of F-16 fighters to Taiwan, the White House announced Wednesday. "The president will recommend the sale," an official aboard the president's jet said as he flew from Washington to South Dakota on campaign trip.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq does not rule out clash over 'no-fly' zone

Reuters

IRAQ WEDNESDAY refused to rule out military confrontation with the west over the "no-fly" zone imposed on the south of its country.

"We consider that the sovereignty of any country is not only over its lands but also in the skies," Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan told Reuters in an interview in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The United States, France and Britain say they are policing the zone to protect Shiite Muslims in the region, scene of a failed revolt against the government of Saddam Hussein in March 1991.

"To say this is to protect human rights with an air umbrella in the southern region is an occupation. Free peoples reject this and work to eliminate this occupation," Mr. Ramadan said.

Asked if Iraq was willing to clash with the U.S. and its allies, Mr. Ramadan said: "If they continue with the violation (of Iraqi airspace) and preventing Iraqi planes (from flying over the region), then we do not rule this out... how could I rule out a military clash when a party comes and occupies another country?"

Mr. Ramadan is in Jakarta for the 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement which opened Tuesday.

He called the flights ban a provocation aimed to help President George Bush in his lagging

re-election campaign.

"It is a form of provocation linked to the American elections and also reflects the real intentions of American imperialism which is to partition Iraq and other regional countries and safeguard Israel," Mr. Ramadan said.

He also accused Iran of helping the U.S. mission by sending infiltrators to aid Shiite dissidents in the southern marshes. Mr. Ramadan said more than 3,000 Iranian troops had crossed the border and taken part in the killing of Iraqis and the burning of buildings.

He said Baghdad would never allow U.N. inspectors to enter government buildings. The United States and its allies threatened bombing attacks in July after Baghdad excluded U.N. weapons inspectors from one ministry.

"Anything that touches upon our sovereignty under any pretext is rejected," Mr. Ramadan said.

Iraq would also continue to spurn tough U.N. terms permitting Baghdad to export limited amounts of oil to buy food and medicine.

"They are imposing on us which is terminal to export from, how to sell and how to buy, how to distribute what we buy for our citizens and to deduct whatever they want (from the revenues). This is rejected," he said.

Mr. Ramadan said Iraq opposed border lines with Kuwait drawn by a U.N. team because the move was incompatible with U.N. Resolution 660, which he said called for the two countries to negotiate an agreement themselves.

He also challenged Kuwait to prove that Iraq still held any of its prisoners and invited a neutral team to Bag-

dad to investigate for itself.

Many delegates to the Non-Aligned Movement summit privately expressed unease about the "no-fly" zone.

The Kuwaiti delegation walked out as Mr. Ramadan took the podium, illustrating the strains in a 108-member movement dedicated to consensus decisions.

Mr. Ramadan told the summit: "It has not been enough for the United States to use every means possible to starve the people of Iraq... they have now embarked upon a campaign to foment sectarian division and incite racial differences in an attempt to dismantle the country into such weak and helpless parts."

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who had spoken just before, thanked those countries which helped during the Gulf war more than 18 months ago.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived hand-in-hand with Mr. Ramadan, warned against the "Balkanisation of the Arab region," a reference to fears the exclusion zone could split up the Kurdish north and Shiite south from the central authority in Baghdad.

Though other delegates did not side openly with Iraq, there was growing concern over the "no-fly" zone and the use of U.S., French and British planes to police it.

"It sets a dangerous precedent," said one, pointing to a clause on the draft document for the meeting protesting against using human rights as a pretext to meddle in a country's internal affairs.

President Saddam's press adviser told Arab tribunes in the south Arabs expect Gulf action, page 2.

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Palestinians present 10-point self-rule blueprint

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinians have proposed to Israel a 10-point framework for an agreement on self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the central issue in the Middle East peace process.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told a news conference her team submitted the proposal Tuesday together with a revised draft agenda and a suggestion to form an immediate working group on human rights.

"There was a very bold decision... to try to open several different avenues all at once in order to prevent or to end any deadlock or impasse," she said.

Israeli chief negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein said his delegation still wanted to set up working groups to negotiate the details of self-rule and if this happened, the topics the Palestinians wanted to raise could be discussed as well.

"If we go into this with a balanced approach dealing with issues everyone wants to discuss... that is the way to do it," Mr. Rubinstein said.

Dr. Ashrawi said the Palestinians' 10-point framework was based on a document submitted in an earlier round "but of course with modifications and taking into account some of the Israeli concerns and proposals."

Dr. Ashrawi stated that the Palestinians' draft stems from their earlier proposal (with modifications), and takes into account some of the Israeli concerns and proposals. She said the framework agreement consisted of ten major areas that are presented in general, not specific details. They include:

- 1— The concept of interim arrangements (the nature of these arrangements based on U.N. Resolution 242).
- 2— The election of the interim self-government and its authority, the nature of elections (free, democratic elections, secret ballots, universal suffrage) and the nature of the elective body.

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Jordan urges NAM to work for freedom, justice and dignity

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Jordan Wednesday called on the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to exert efforts towards shaping a new world based on freedom, justice and basic dignity.

Addressing the 10th summit of the 108-member NAM, which opened here Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein noted that the shape of the world was changing fast in the wake of the end to East-West tension and cold war, but no solution was in sight for

the problems of the developing world.

The King, in the speech delivered on his behalf by Upper House of Parliament Speaker

See page 4 for full text of the King's speech

Ahmad Al Lawzi, called for greater cooperation among the countries of the developing world if they were to seek action from the rich countries of the North to

address the problems of the South.

"The countries of the South themselves suffer from disparities in the levels of economic, political and cultural growth," said the King. "A small group among has effective economies in export, manufacturing and other areas, while some enjoy capital surpluses but not economic strengths, others are lacking in

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Jordan-Israel talks still mired; negotiations may recess

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Jordanian-Israeli talks appeared to make little headway Wednesday over agreeing on a "common agenda" including all the major points to be discussed and implemented as Israel continued to reject some of the key elements that Jordan wanted as essential parts of negotiations based on the terms of reference.

Similarly, little breakthrough was seen in the separate talks between Syria and Israel after the Syrians dismissed an Israeli assessment that progress was made in the negotiations.

As this mixed picture emerged, the negotiations, in the second week of the latest Washington round, seemed headed for a period of recess and reappraisal. The talks continue through Thursday but then look likely to recess until Sept. 14 while the

Israelis consult their government.

An Israeli spokeswoman said Israel had proposed the recess and Arab delegates said it was likely but not yet formally agreed.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Majali told reporters after an informal round of talks Wednesday morning that disagreement remained between the Jordanian and Israeli sides, although no new proposals were made to bridge the differences.

He said the meeting centred on differing viewpoints on interpreting the agenda and that some amendments were proposed.

But "no new proposals were made," Dr. Majali said. "There was an attempt to change some of the existing aspects (of the points) to improve on them."

Dr. Majali said he hoped that agreement could be reached and therefore it was not yet time to seek intervention from the co-sponsors of the peace process

— the United States and Russia. "I do not think it is the right time for intervention by the co-sponsors," he said. "There is still hope that we would reach (agreement) on a unified agenda."

Jordan spokesman Marwan Muasher gave a grim assessment Tuesday.

The Israelis assumed a hard-line position that we find difficult to comprehend. It is a position that is not conducive to productive negotiations," he said.

"We feel that the gap is wider now than when we started last week. There are certain items that we simply cannot sugar-coat in the process of setting the agenda that is to define the framework of negotiations with Israel."

"It appears that Israel is reluctant not only to discuss central issues, but also to even include them on the agenda. We cannot accept Israel's argument that

(Continued on page 5)

Moves launched to optimise water supply

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Severe water shortages being suffered by citizens mainly in the capital but also in other cities are one of the major reasons behind a new quest by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to renew Amman's network in the hope that they would be able to save up to 30 per cent of the water being pumped now and which is lost through leakage.

The Ministry and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) have submitted a memorandum requesting that an addendum to the 1992 annual budget include a JD20 million soft loan for the purpose of initiating projects which would alleviate the problem of water shortages in the capital and other towns.

In response, the Cabinet has given WAJ the green light to approach the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and commercial banks to commission the loan in coordination with the minister of finance as the guarantor of the loan.

A senior official told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the minister of water and irrigation, Samir Kawa, had presented the Cabinet with a memo detailing the problems facing WAJ in securing water for domestic use and highlighting the problem of leakage in the capital's water distribution network.

The official said that no decision had been taken to extend the loan from the SSC pending a meeting of the fund's board of directors but he predicted that the JD20 million would be secured through a conglomerate of financiers, including the SSC and commercial banks.

"The minister believes that if the old water network is replaced in Amman, the amount of water saved will alone cover the loan," said the official who requested anonymity.

The situation is being further aggravated by a heatwave during which the citizens are finding themselves without sufficient water supplies for domestic use.

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Jordan says Saudis open door for better ties

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said Wednesday that a message of friendship from Saudi King Fahd to King Hussein has opened the door to improving relations chilled by the Gulf war.

King Hussein received the message last week while recovering from surgery in the United States.

"The message of His Majesty (King Fahd) and the exchange of cables has created an opening in the otherwise frigid relations in the two countries which we hope will be developed," acting Foreign Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif told Reuters.

"We are grateful of course for the initiative of King Fahd and the crown prince," he said.

King Fahd, in his first known contact with the Jordanian Monarch since the Gulf crisis, sent the Saudi ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, to visit King Hussein as he recovered from the removal of a kidney and his ureter.

King Fahd's message, which was not made public, prompted an effusive reply from King Hussein saying the Saudi King's "kindness... has taken away much of the anguish of the painful separation between the two countries."

The official news agency Petra carried the text of King Hussein's message but there has been unusually little reaction in the Jordanian media to the apparent breakthrough.

Jordan had previously had little success in mending relations with Saudi Arabia, formerly its biggest benefactor.

Riyadh, incensed by King Hussein's criticism of the Saudi-based alliance which drove Iraq from Kuwait last year, severed aid and withdrew its ambassador to Jordan.

Mr. Sharif, who is also information minister, said Saudi Arabia was maintaining a ban on imports of Jordanian agricultural produce, imposed last week but

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Views conflict over detention and 'case' against deputies

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The detention of independent Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat by the state security prosecution on Monday night has drawn conflicting views from analysts, observers, his supporters and anti-Shbeilat elements as to the motives and reasons behind this move. While Mr. Shbeilat's supporters believe that the motives behind his detention were political, other observers believe the government would not take a chance with arresting him without solid evidence that he was involved with an illegal Islamic militant group.

Analysts say that the government is trying to steer clear of deepening the rift between the opposition, particularly the Islamic movements, at a time when conflicts between religious zealots and governments are destabilising the internal security in the region, such as in Algeria and Egypt.

While Jordan has a record of tolerating Islamic movements in the Kingdom, the government is determined to prevent repetition of the Algerian example, fearing that the movements could turn militant and resort to violent means to achieve their political objectives, according to observers.

"The government would never take a chance with arresting a popular deputy like Mr. Shbeilat unless there was enough evidence to hold him in custody for questioning," said an analyst. "The country is not ready for a showdown with the Islamists."

Mr. Shbeilat, one of the most popular and outspoken members of Parliament, was detained Monday night, a few days after his close associate Deputy Yaqub Qarrash was arrested for suspected involvement in an illegal armed group.

Mr. Shbeilat's car was allegedly used to transport arms and explosives for this cell, called "Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami," (Vanguards of Islamic Youth), according to informed sources.

Another group of Islamists was arrested following the end of the Gulf war in 1991 for involvement in

another illegal organisation calling itself "Mohammad's Army." They were accused, tried and convicted of terrorist activities inside Jordan. Terrorists were committed to prison terms for those who were condemned to death by the State Security Court, which replaced the martial court following the cancellation of martial law.

Although the well-organised Muslim Brotherhood has been cautious by avoiding a serious confrontation with the establishment — a traditional policy of the group since their inception more than 20 years ago — observers say that other more outspoken Islamist groups have been "targeted" by the government following the Gulf war.

Mr. Shbeilat himself had spoken out against what he saw as a crackdown against the Islamists during the "Mohammad's Army" trials, although he opposed the use of violence inside Jordan.

Mr. Shbeilat's supporters — who include many seculars, pan-Arab nationalists and leftists — believe that

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... while Islamic groups seen facing 'real test'

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The arrest of two Islamist deputies in connection with a previously unknown underground militant group, coupled with the conviction last year of scores of armed extremists, could weaken the popular base of Islamic movements if they were perceived to sympathise or be associated with groups that aim to use Jordan's nascent democracy as a cover for violence.

Some analysts maintain that the arrest of deputies, Sheikh Yaqub Qarrash and Laith Shbeilat will not affect the popular support for other Islamic movements even if the two parliamentarians were indicted because they only represent themselves and because there is a popular perception that Mr. Shbeilat is being held for political reasons.

The opposing view argues that the arrest of the two deputies, in addition to the arrest and trials last year of members of the banned "Moham-

mad's Army" will damage the standing of Islamists in the country.

Observers agree that the findings of the new case — i.e. whether weapons seized during raids by security forces were intended for use against Israeli occupation forces or for sabotage within Jordan or if the whole operation was only a scam to make money from different groups — will determine people's attitude towards the defendants themselves and Islamic movements in general.

The arrest of Sheikh Qarrash, accused of heading an organisation called "Shabab Al Nafar Al Islami" (Vanguards of Islamic Youth) was followed by the detention of prominent Deputy Shbeilat.

Mr. Shbeilat is expected to be charged with assisting the illegal Al Nafar organisation by allegedly allowing his car to be used for transporting illegal arms and explosives aimed against the state.

Supporters of Mr. Shbeilat, who has made many enemies with his criticism of the regime and the Muslim Brotherhood opposition to the National Charter and what he said

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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cable from Pakistani president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received cables from Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, congratulating him over the success of the surgery he underwent two weeks ago. They wished the King good health and a full recovery. King Hussein also received a cable from the President and members of the Jordanian Writers Association, congratulating him over the success of the surgery.

Regent congratulates Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday sent a cable to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, congratulating him on Qatar's independence day. Prince Hassan wished Sheikh Khalifah good health and happiness and the Qatari people further progress and prosperity.

Queen Noor to open 'Children of War' seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open a seminar entitled "Children of War — where to?" The seminar, which will be held in Amman on Sept. 14, is organized by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). It will discuss issues related to children who are the main victims of destructive wars in the Middle East. Representatives of religious societies and organizations in the Middle East, as well as non-governmental institutions will take part in the seminar.

Princess Basma visits rural markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday opened two rural markets in Tafleeh and Maan governorates. Social services centres in the towns of Taybah and Basta organized the markets. Princess Basma toured the two markets and reviewed the items on display which included locally-produced food supplies, embroideries, knit-wear, handicrafts and traditional dishes. Princess Basma also visited charity societies in the villages of Abu Bana and Gharandal in Tafleeh, and Basta and Taybah in Maan, and discussed with members of the administrative committees of these societies services they offer to the public. Princess Basma was accompanied on her tour by the Tafleeh governor, deputy governor of Maan, heads of municipal and rural councils in the two governorates and several officials.

Lawzi to head delegation to IPU meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meeting of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the League of the National Assemblies secretary Generals to be held in Sweden between Sept. 6-12. The meetings will focus attention on the economic and political situation in the world, ways of supporting democratic shifts, human rights, women's rights and environmental problems. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al-Lawzi and will include deputies Majed Khalifah and Qasem Obeidat in addition to Parliament Secretary General Saleh Al Za'bi.

Zarqa hosts 'comprehensive' exhibition

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Comprehensive Exhibition 92 which is organized by the Jordan Engineers Association's (JEA) Zarqa branch, was opened Wednesday at the Islamic Community College in Zarqa. The exhibition, which was opened by Zarqa Governor Tal'at Nawasbeh, displays local industrial products, agricultural produce, photos and posters of touristic sites in Jordan and abroad. A total of 25 Jordanian establishments are participating in the exhibition, which will last for eight days.

Food coupons distributed in Tafleeh

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Supply Department in Tafleeh governorate has started distributing food rationing coupons from its new distribution centres in the governorate's cities and villages. Department Director Majed Su'oud said that four new centres were opened in Basra, Hassa, Ain Al Baidah and Tafleeh to enable citizens to receive their rationing coupons as soon as possible. With the use of coupons, citizens can get flour, sugar, milk and rice at subsidised prices. Mr. Su'oud said the department will next week start the distributing coupons by mobile offices to help citizens get government-subsidised food supplies.

Iraqi orchestra performs at RCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra will perform Iraqi and Western music at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) next week in a two-day programme organized by the National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. The 28-member group will give its first concert on Saturday, performing four Western works and a symphony composed by an Iraqi composer. In its second concert on Sunday, it will present four other musical pieces.

Jordan participates in Cairo festival

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the Arab Experimental Theatre Festival which was opened in Cairo Tuesday. Jordan's two entries in the festival are director Ghannam Ghannam's play "Who's There?" and Abdul Hakim Harb's "Sinbad." The 10-day festival will include a ceremony to honour some of the veteran Arab playwrights, actors and directors.

Fire at paper factory extinguished

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fire fighters at the Civil Defence Department (CDD) Wednesday extinguished a fire which burnt piles of waste paper stored in the yard of the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company near Zarqa.

The company's General Manager Abdul Noor Habaybeh said the fire did not cause any damage to the machinery and raw material. He said the factory, which has several other yards to keep waste paper, Wednesday continued its work as usual. However, the CDD and Dr. Habaybeh put the estimated damage at JD20,000.

CDD fire fighters from Amman, Zarqa, Irbid and Mafrqa were able to control the fire in few hours but it took them 24 hours to put it out. Dr. Habaybeh told the Jordan Times.

He said that the CDD is still investigating the causes of the fire, which broke out early Tuesday.

Dr. Habaybeh said a nearby

carton boxes factory, which is also owned and operated by the same company, was not affected and that production was continuing normally. He also said not all waste paper in the yard burnt. Earlier reports said that 3000 tonnes of waste paper went up in flames and that bulldozers had to pull down one of the walls surrounding the huge yard to enter it and remove the unburnt waste paper in an effort to control the spread of the fire.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Sbouh Wednesday visited the scene of the fire and met with Dr. Habaybeh and workers at the factory.

According to Dr. Habaybeh, fire engines from the Jordanian armed forces, the CDD, the Public Security Department and those at the factory were used to fight the fire.

Ministers of Labour, Public Works and Housing and Social Development also visited the factory and were assured that all machinery and raw materials were quite safe and that production was proceeding normally.

University of Jordan marks 30th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan (UJ) Wednesday marked its 30th anniversary, celebrating its growth from a one-faculty institution when it was established in 1962 to a large university with 14 faculties and thousands of students.

A statement issued on the eve of the anniversary said that while only 149 male and 18 female students enrolled at the university in September 1962, this institution now offers training to 21,000 students in 14 different faculties.

These are the faculties of arts, economics and administrative sciences, education, sciences, sharia (Islamic law), law, physical education, science, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, agriculture, engineering and technology and dentistry in addition to a higher studies faculty for postgraduate students.

While only eight staff members are teaching in 1962, the number of professors has now risen to 797, said the statement.

It said that the University of

Jordan now awards bachelor degrees in 42 specialisations, vocational diplomas in five specialisations, masters degree in 44 specialisations and doctorate degrees in five fields.

The University of Jordan has a special department charged with supervising scientific research programmes, drawing up general research policies and following up the publications. Another unit is in charge of students affairs addressing extracurricular activities like sports, cultural, social and technical functions.

Furthermore, the statement said the university has set up specialised scientific centres offering services to students and contributing to the national efforts in consultancy services, and training of scientists.

The statement said the university has established agricultural research centre in the Jordan Valley and a Marine Science Station in Aqaba in cooperation with Yarmouk University.

PSD upgrades its services to keep up with social changes

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Al-Fuhaid said Wednesday that political changes in the country, together with the return of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians and other developments in the region, made it incumbent on the PSD to develop its systems and services at all levels.

In a lecture delivered at the Royal Staff and Command Academy, Major General Fuhaid said that the Gulf crisis brought

numerous changes to the Middle East region. He said the crisis caused a huge increase in the population of the Kingdom, prompting the PSD to expand its role and upgrade and improve its services to the public.

"Despite the socio-economic challenges and the outside pressure, Jordan has remained one of the world's most stable nations, enjoying security with a very low crime rate," said Major General Fuhaid.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Lecture

* Lecture, in Arabic, by artist Hassan Al-Saeed entitled "The One Dimension — a Philosophy, a Perspective and a Technique" at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

Regent, Swedish delegation discuss bilateral ties, Mideast peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, conferred in his office Wednesday with Mr. Pierre Schori, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Parliament and his accompanying delegation.

Prince Hassan and the visiting delegation reviewed Jordanian-Swedish relations and the general situation in the Middle East.

Following the meeting, Mr. Schori, who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit, told Jordan Television that his visit to the Kingdom was an important part of a mission assigned to him by the Swedish Parliament.

"We think that Jordan is a very crucial part in the (peace) process and we admire very much the role it plays in the area," Mr. Schori said.

He said Sweden's role in promoting peace in the Middle East has been "modest" but his visit to the region was aimed to "underline Sweden's interest in contributing to the peace process."

"When we return to Sweden, we plan to submit a report and encourage the government of Sweden to be even more active in the contribution to the peace process," Mr. Schori said.

Mr. Schori later had a meeting with Acting Foreign Minister and Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif to discuss the peace



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday receives a visiting Swedish parliamentary delegation (Petra photo).

process and the situation in the region.

The minister reviewed with the visitors progress made in Arab-Israeli negotiations currently held in Washington and pointed to Israel's intransigent position on the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The minister also briefed Mr. Schori on Jordan's parliamentary life and the democratic process.

In meetings with Parliament members on Wednesday, Mr. Schori voiced his country's support and appreciation for Jordan's efforts in dealing with the

rights in their homeland.

"There are historic relations between Sweden and the Middle East and these can always be strengthened for the interest of both sides," he added.

Dr. Arabiyat told Mr. Schori and his delegation that Jordan was looking forward to enhancing its ties with Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden.

He called on the Scandinavian countries to help support "the just cause of the Palestinian people and support current efforts to enable them to regain their usurped territory and homeland."

Mr. Schori and his accompanying delegation also met with Marwan Al Qasem, member of the Upper House's Foreign Affairs Committee, to discuss Jordanian-Swedish parliamentary cooperation and to review the general situation in the region.

Discussions covered the Palestine question, Jordan's democratic experiment, and the burdens the Kingdom is facing as a result of the Gulf war.

Commenting on the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Schori said his country supported "a just peace that would be acceptable to all parties." He expressed belief that the present Israeli government "was more serious about reaching peace than the previous Likud government."

Anglican bishop contributes to restoration of Dome of Rock

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anglican Church Bishop in Jerusalem and the Middle East Samir Qafity Wednesday donated JD3000 to help finance the renovation of the Dome of the Rock in Arab Jerusalem.

Fayez Jaber, member of a government-appointed committee for the restoration and renovation of the holy shrine, voiced the committee's appreciation for the "symbolic" donation, which he said, "manifests the strong ties of brotherhood and affection between the Christian and Muslim communities in Jer-

dan and the occupied Arab territories."

Bishop Qafity said he was making the donation as an expression of his rejoice over His Majesty King Hussein's recovery from the operation which he recently had.

The Bishop said that the donation was made by the Anglican community in the region in support for the King's endeavours to renovate the holy shrine.

King Hussein has donated \$8.24 million towards the renovation of the Dome of the Rock. The project is expected to cost \$10 million, and a popular com-

mittee was set up in Jordan to raise more funds for it.

The Anglican bishop last week met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and expressed the Christian community's willingness to contribute towards the renovation of the Dome of the Rock.

Restoration work on the shrine began last month after the Ministry of Awqaf and a Jordanian government committee in charge of the project granted a British firm a contract to carry out the work.

Development project lures farmers back to deserted village

AMMAN — Life is slowly returning to the village of Sbeirah in the North Jordan Valley thanks to a socio-economic development project financed by the Human Appeal International (HAI) according to Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh.

The \$20,000-project will increase the area of agricultural land from 150 dunums to at least 1500 dunums.

Dr. Mashagbeh said that the HAI project encourage village residents to return to their lands.

Village residents abandoned their homes and lands 20 years ago due to lack of basic services: Water, electricity, roads, schools and health centres, the minister said.

Presently, several non-governmental and humanitarian and voluntary organisations from around the world are investing in income-generating projects in the rural regions of Jordan in coop-

eration with the Ministry of Social Development with a view to halting the migration of people from rural to urban regions, Dr. Mashagbeh said.

Agricultural projects, like the one in the Sbeirah village, will help reduce unemployment and encourage young men to turn to farming, the minister said in a statement.

HAI Regional Director Adham Akel said the project entails collecting spring water to flow in a 1200-metre-long cement canal to distribute water to farmlands in and around the village. The first phase of the project has been completed at the cost of \$20,000, it will increase the cultivated area to 1500 dunums, he said.

He said the second phase of the project is designed to make further utilisation of lands within the area, raising the area of farmland to 4000 dunums. He said that the

lands in the second phase will be planted with fruit. The local residents will be encouraged and helped to keep sheep, which could graze in the pasture lands to be created through the implementation of the irrigation scheme.

Already many young men from the village, who have been living in the Hashemite village near Ajloun, have returned to Sbeirah and started growing crops, Mr. Akel said. He said while only 150 dunums were grown with vegetables and cereals last year, the number has now risen to 500 dunums.

Mr. Akel said that he was in contact with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to ensure that an asphalted road will reach the village so that to encourage its residents to return there. He said he will pursue contacts with other ministries to ensure that other basic services are supplied.

RSS to hold energy seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A training seminar on thermal insulation and humidity in buildings will open at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on Saturday.

Engineers from the public and private sectors in Jordan will be attending the seminar, which is intended to discuss means of saving energy, reducing fuel consumption and modern trends in insulation and discovering humidity in internal walls, according to RSS officials.

The 10-day seminar is also to discuss insulation materials used in construction of homes and ways to advise the public on reducing energy consumption.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sa'id Allouh, RSS vice president, received in his office Tuesday Dr. Mohammad Iryani, undersecretary of the Yemeni Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, to discuss scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Yemen in scientific research work and technical consultancy services. They also discussed the implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides last February on cooperation in specifications and standards, energy, construction, the environment, and industrial engineering.

According to an RSS statement, the two sides agreed that a team of experts from the RSS will visit Yemen to prepare a working plan to implement a number of proposed projects there.

Dr. Iryani said that Yemen would like to benefit from the RSS's expertise in economic development projects and scientific research.

China to organise trade fair in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — China will organise its second trade fair in Amman on Sept. 8, displaying more than 100 types of products, according to the commercial attaché at the Chinese Embassy in Amman.

Mr. Gan Dingshun made the announcement at a press conference Wednesday, saying that Jordanian-Chinese economic and trade relations have been growing since 1981.

China's first trade fair in Amman was held in 1984 when a number of Chinese firms displayed samples of their goods.

The volume of trade exchanged between Jordan and China in 1981 was estimated at nearly \$30 million; it reached \$115.5 million in 1991, said Mr. Dingshun. He said that China's exports to Jordan include cereals, cooking oil, foodstuffs, light industrial products, textiles and clothing. It imports Jordanian phosphate and potash.

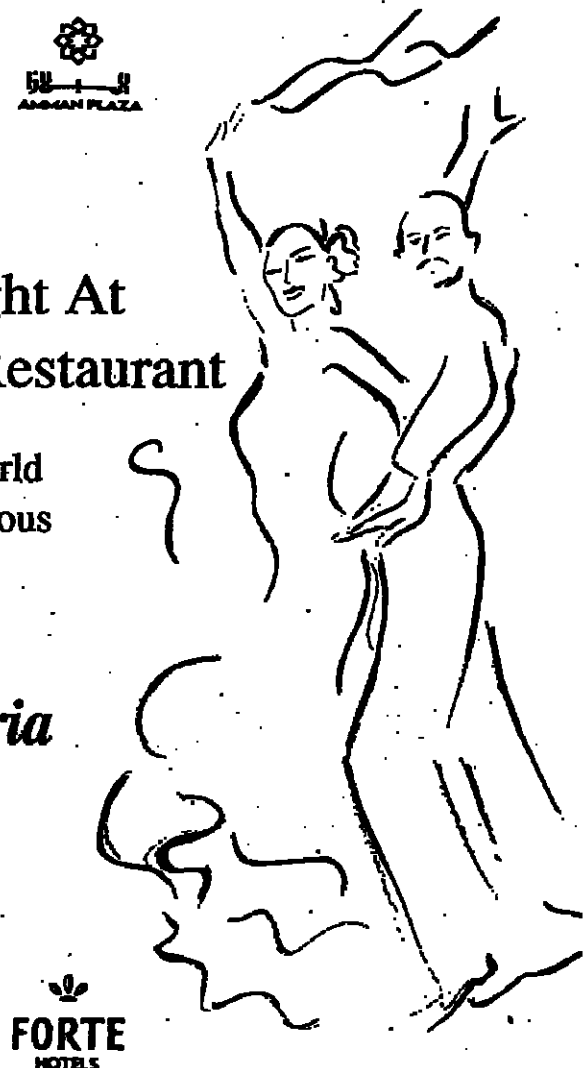
During the six-day fair, Chinese businessmen will hold talks with Jordanian private and public sector representatives to discuss trade exchanges and ways to increase the trade volume between China and Jordan, Mr. Dingshun said.

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TENDER'S NOTICE

The Projects Directorate/ Ministry of Education announces the retendering of the following tender which is part of the Sector Education Project No. 3106-JO (Books warehouses) financed by the World Bank:

Tender's No.	Title	Fees JD
3/92	B.W. VEHICLES	5,000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the Projects Directorate/ Ministry of Education, starting August 30, 1992 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of October 12, 1992.

Head of Special Tenders Committee
Dr. Muhyar Al Masri



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Jordan Times

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Have mercy on young

WHEN WILL Jordanian authorities concerned with the traffic conditions in the country begin to have mercy on our young ones if they have already written off the adult population? Surely their half-closed eyes have caught glimpses of hundreds of pupils at the beginning of this new scholastic year trying to cross streets with great peril to their lives. The sight of our youngsters attempting desperately to find a moment of interruption in traffic flow to reach the other side of the street has yet to attract the attention of our authorities who keep pretending that they are doing all they can to reduce road accidents, especially those involving pedestrians. How many children or teenagers must shed their blood before the mayor of Amman and the authorities in charge of traffic whoever they may be will start to take this problem seriously. This time around they cannot plead lack of funds because to assign protected areas of pedestrians struggling to cross streets does not take that much money. All it needs is care and attention based on appreciation of the facts on the ground. Take for example the so-called Gardens, Mecca and University streets, not to mention even more difficult thoroughfares in Amman for crossing purposes. It is obvious that whoever designed these streets had no appreciation of or care for the ordeals and tribulations of Jordanians needing to cross such streets for their schools or places of their livelihoods. Name us one safe place for people to traverse these and similar avenues without sustaining a hazardous risk to their lives day in and day out.

If the government cannot afford to install traffic lights on such streets and on other major cross sections like the major one in Shmeisani area where it is supposed to be a major commercial section of the city, the least that one would expect of the concerned authorities is to have a well delineated and protected crossing zones for people to use. Any such belated move needs also to be enforced properly and efficiently.

Inaction by the state to prevent the continued loss of life and mayhem on Jordanian streets, whether in Amman or elsewhere in the Kingdom, would amount to gross negligence that the government will have to bear responsibility for. Very soon the winter season will come and with it visibility will worsen, and schools will start when it is relatively dark. The government is called upon to act effectively and swiftly in this direction before more students die unnecessarily.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS not enough for the heads of Arab parties to the ongoing peace process in Washington to announce that the Israeli delegation is adopting a hardened position which can lead to no solutions, they should rather pack and return home, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The Arab parties have been very cooperative with the Americans, who are sponsoring the talks, and the Israelis, who are retracting their step and assuming a very intransigent position, unwitnessed in the previous rounds, said the paper. It said that the Arab countries' optimism over the election of Yitzhak Rabin and his Labour government has now been dashed. It is rather difficult to see how the Arabs can benefit from staying in Washington, the paper said. The Israelis to budge from their intransigence and to close the gap between the two sides in light of Israel's adamant position at the talks, the paper said. It said that the Arab parties should take a very brave step and boycott the talks which are no more than a waste of time. The Arab parties should refuse to allow the Americans and the Israelis to humiliate their nation and can by no means accept capitulation after offering all they could and trying to reach peace with honour, the paper said. A withdrawal from the peace negotiations is bound to upset the enemies' plans and can obstruct Mr. Bush from reaching the White House at the end of the race in November, said the daily. It said that while the Arab parties are being humiliated in Washington, the Americans and their allies are maintaining aggression on the Iraqi people and are condoning Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories. The paper demanded that the Arab parties pack and leave rather than stand further humiliation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily strongly demanded that Jordanian women be granted their full rights provided under the Jordanian Constitution, including the right to form or be part of political parties. Hind Abul Shaar said the constitution allows Jordanian men and women to be involved in political action, provided they meet the requirements stipulated by law. She said that it is unimaginable for women to live with men in one society but having their rights denied, and it is unreasonable for any person to live in a society with no right to express his or her views freely as provided by the law. There have been some voices denouncing moves by Jordanian women to joint political parties and enter political life and there are others which have been advocating that women set up their own political parties, said the writer. She said such ideas are ridiculous as they try to separate women from the Jordanian society and maintain male dominance on all sectors. The writer demanded that political parties give due consideration to the involvement of Jordanian women in their programmes. She also demanded that women never cease to demand their rights and to refuse to become manipulated by males.

NAM should mould a new world based on freedom, justice, human dignity

Following is His Majesty King Hussein's address to the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Jakarta. The speech was delivered on behalf of King Hussein by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

AFTER NEARLY four decades of perseverance and continued struggle to achieve full independence, progress and prosperity for our peoples as well as to bolster international peace and security, we return once again to this friendly country so dear to us all. I am honoured to convey to you His Majesty King Hussein's best wishes and hopes for a successful and fruitful conference. His Majesty's recent illness has prevented him from personally taking part in these proceedings. His Majesty has honoured me with the task of representing him and commanded me to convey to you his deep appreciation for Indonesia's pioneering efforts, its constructive and positive role in establishing this movement in the first place, and its unwavering adherence to its principles and its ideals.

Indonesia has, therefore, earned the honour of being one of the initiators of this movement and a major contributor to its growth. His Majesty profoundly appreciates the gracious efforts exerted by his excellency the Indonesian president for his distinctive role in the development of our movement and for so efficiently laying the groundwork for this conference.

It would be remiss on my part not to express, on behalf of His Majesty, Jordan's profound gratitude to his excellency the Indonesian president and to the people and government of Indonesia for the great hospitality and the very warm reception afforded to us. I would further like to avail myself of this occasion to emphasise the deep and strong relations that prevail between our two brotherly countries. For a good number of years now, these relations have been a model of ties as they ought to exist between countries and peoples. They have been marked by cooperation, mutual trust, respect and a sincere desire by both sides for their sustenance and growth. They thus embody the message of our movement itself, which has had a positive impact on international politics and on the struggle of our peoples for independence, freedom and democracy.

We return to this friendly country from which flew the first spark of our common endeavour. This return bears a significance which we should be well-advised to consider as we review the progress of the movement. For it started with a shared vision which endowed with meaning the early stirrings aimed at completing the process of political independence for the peoples of Asia and Africa. It then released the energies of economic, social and cultural emancipation and responded to challenges imposed by powers steeped in notions of hegemony, exploitation and old colonialism, or by those that provided peoples with one of two choices: dependence or collapse.

Bandung was a courageous response to these challenges, a lasting human awakening imbued with concepts of liberation, independence, freedom and dignity for our peoples. Indonesia today as well as ASEAN as a whole are truly regarded as a model for what our member states can do to achieve economic growth and a competitive edge in exports to the markets of the North and South in equal measure.

So we return after forty years as the world finds itself grappling with a flood of profound changes. Over the horizon looms the threat of unipolar dominance under the rubric of the "new world order," which does not so much promise an end to hunger or fear as merely replaces tyranny with oppression.

Superpower bipolarity has become a thing of the past. The global balance of power has shifted. Gone is the cold war, which had sealed international relations with its mark during the past four decades and had influenced the overall framework of our movement's philosophy and principles as well as its scope of action. We are now witnessing comprehensive changes, even breakdowns, which require the greatest measure of alertness and careful analysis on our part if, rather than falling victim to the fires that fuel them, we are to be active players capable of fending off all threats — to the benefit of the world, the cause of peace, and the march of history.

Although the information and communications revolution would seem to imply that the world of today has become one entity activated by a global economic order, the reality is otherwise. Structural imbalances, represented by discrepancies in the levels of growth among its consti-

tents — especially the increasingly widening gap between North and South, and rich and poor — are the real factors prevailing on the international scene. They divide the globe into two distinct factions: one enjoying prosperity born of greed, and another plagued by despair, weariness and want.

The existing world order has neither clear structure nor vision. It is marked by contradiction that throws its constituent elements into confusion. Interdependence among countries and peoples is giving way to inequity, disarray, ideological retrenchment and negative manifestations of national and ethnic particularities. Wars among nations may well be receding, but there are only being replaced by factional wars within individual states. On the other hand, the reduced probability of nuclear confrontation is one shadowed by the no less dangerous and complicated task of dismantling nuclear facilities, determining new sites for them and preventing their deployment in areas of tension and confrontation.

While a direct result of the demise of East-West confrontation and the end of the cold war has been a termination of the policy of containment, there is a new drive towards domination and increased interference in the affairs of smaller countries. This poses a real threat to freedom, political independence and the exercise of self-determination for a range of peoples aspiring to that right and struggling to achieve it.

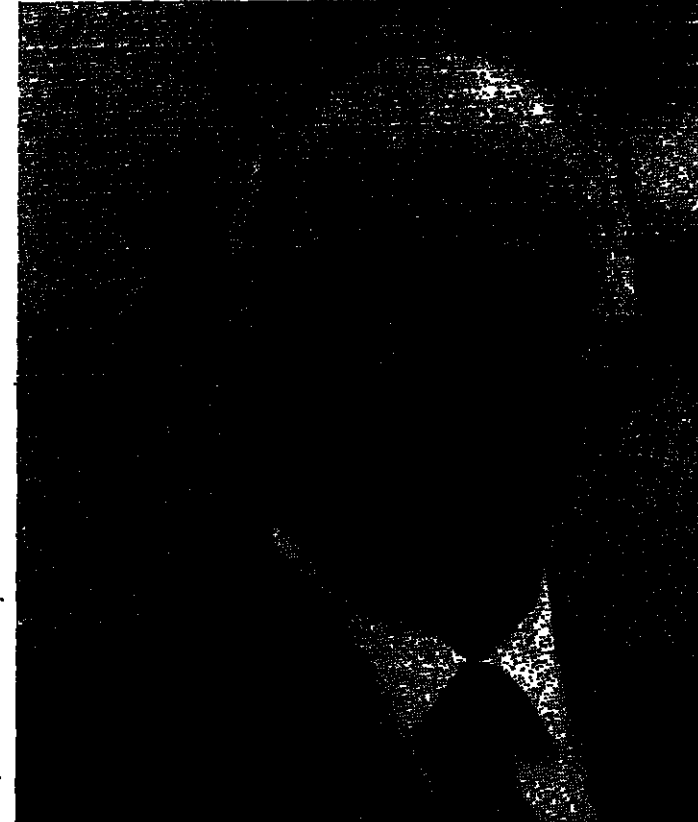
While the end of the cold war and the concomitant end of the bipolar confrontation is important in itself, still more important now is the manner of interacting with new circumstances and adjusting to new conditions arising from this development. Many of the policies as well as structures — political, military and institutional — through which old rivalries and past confrontations were conducted are still alive and dominant in the international arena, albeit in new forms and through more covert means. The prevailing mentality is still that of the cold war, of seeking a new enemy, who in all probability will be one of our own number — despite our insistence that the world ought to be a peaceful and just village, not a jungle governed by the strong and greedy who are unfettered by constraints of morality and conscience.

The changes in the post-cold war era have not been paralleled by any real progress in the areas of peace, security or co-existence. On the contrary, we find ourselves face to face with a bipolar structure bent on hegemony, restriction of freedoms for people in the Third World and reduction of opportunities for growth and social prosperity. This is all inimical to the aims of our movement, which opposes oppression, spheres of influence and polarisation. Faced with new forms of domination and imposed dependence, the question we now face is how to go about countering these pressures.

The Non-Aligned Movement has two related aspects: vision and methodology. It comprises a set of values, principles and legitimate interests of a group of countries which have suffered from domination and attempted domination and expropriation of their national decision-making prerogative; countries whose aim is comprehensive development. If the choice of either vision or methodology had been affected to some extent by the bipolar order of a previous era, the values and principles on which our movement is based remain as valid as ever. Actually these values and principles could well be threatened from more than one quarter in a world characterised by structural confusion and an absence of international legitimacy in the proper and serious sense of the term.

The Non-Aligned Movement, dear brethren, did not come into existence or acquire its distinctive role merely as a result of East-West conflict or rivalry — as its name seems to imply. The fact is that its original intent was to give expression to a shared belief in a set of noble human values and principles, and also to bring out our own defining character as well as our vision for the future of our peoples and for their cultural and humane aspirations.

For these reasons, the victory of either East or West after their prolonged standoff does not in any way deny the essence or alter the principles of our movement. By the same token, it does not by itself enhance the opportunities of achieving the legitimate interests of our countries and peoples. If the old bipolar confrontation seems to be dying out, it does not follow, nor should it be understood to imply, that it constitutes an end to the continuous human struggle for a new era free of oppression, dependence, ter-



rorism, fear or domination.

The universal principles of our movement, the sound concept on which it is based and the exalted goals to which it aspires should not prevent us from casting a questioning, or even critical look at the course it has taken or the manner in which it has performed during the past few decades.

We ought to admit that we have not achieved all of our objectives. The road ahead remains long indeed. In some measure, this is due to a combination of domestic — and perhaps external — factors affecting each member country. For example, the issues of freedom, democracy, political pluralism and human rights are major areas which have not received sufficient attention in many member states. Also, elites and political leaderships have in many cases failed to absorb and grasp social and intellectual changes within our respective societies. This has led to a waste of resources which could have otherwise utilised to effect a major impact on the make-up, growth and prosperity of these societies. It has also, in certain cases, led to the squandering of wealth and tribal divisions, instead of joining the ranks of those struggling for the universal revolution and the glory of man and his human rights.

The countries of the South themselves suffer from disparities in the levels of economic, political and cultural growth. A small group among us has effective economies in export, manufacturing and other areas, while some enjoy capital surpluses but not economic strengths. Others are lacking in cultural pluralism while suffering from economic retrenchment. These disparities should be an incentive for us to work for greater complementarity among our member states, enabling us to have an impact on the economies of the North. This level of complementarity, however, has not been adequately achieved. Given these imbalances in some of our member states, external powers, therefore, have found an excuse, however flimsy, to interfere in our countries and penetrate our societies. They have been encouraged in this by political, national, social, religious and sectarian contradictions within our own societies, which have curtailed our progress and kept us locked in a pattern of crisis, impotence and loss. Foreign intervention has also been aided by the disappointing level of coordination, cooperation and information exchange within our movement, leading in turn to even greater waste of resources, capacity, effort and time.

In this respect, we cannot ignore the direct or indirect impact of the world system in development plans in some of our member states. In certain cases, the interference by the international system has almost deprived the states concerned of control over their political or social agenda. In others, national programmes have been deflected from the course of liberation, development and the pursuit of independence. They have become tools enabling foreign powers to exercise their hegemony and control. In the process, the countries thus affected have missed the opportunity of developing a coherent social vision through which to draw up a development strategy or conduct a foreign policy based on coordination and a clear understanding of the goals and principles of our movement.

These factors notwithstanding, our analysis of the new world situation and of the lessons of past experience leads to the clear imperative that we persist in moving forward as partners in moulding a new world on the basis of freedom, justice and human

dignity of man and in his right to life, freedom, peace and the pursuit of creativity.

Principles and slogans which are not translated into actions or programmes which hold a promise of ameliorating the human condition are condemned to remain a cry in the wilderness or mere ink on paper. It is pursuant to our deeply-held belief, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in the need to transform slogans and principles into practical programmes and measures that we have committed ourselves to the movement's principles and goals and supported the aspirations of its peoples. Our democratic process is taking roots, growing stronger and moving forward with confidence and clarity of vision. We are satisfied that the future of democracy in Jordan is quite secure and are confident of its outcome. We shall exert every effort to make this experiment a model of popular participation, freedom of thought and expression, and political pluralism rooted in a social contract and a National Charter regulating our free and dignified life on the soundest of national and constitutional foundations.

We have also embarked on a course of self-dependence in the economic field while maintaining an independent foreign policy, albeit within a regional and international milieu unfortunately characterised by domination, polarisation and spheres of influence. Jordan has succeeded in preserving the characteristics of a modern state despite the many pressures and challenges it has had to face. Foremost among these has been the uprooting of hundreds of thousands of our citizens and others in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Jordan has coped with courage and forbearance with the effects of the loss by these evacuees of their property and means of livelihood. This has been achieved despite the suddenness and intensity of the flow into a country with limited resources and has coincided with a period of world tension and upheaval as a result of the continuous frustration of Arab aspirations for unity, freedom and democracy. In this regard, Jordanians share with their Arab brethren their grief and frustration. But they also share with them their hopes and aspirations and their yearning to transform their sense of common identity into a workable institutional formula leading to effective complementarity between the human resources of some and natural resources and wealth of others, as an expression of a unitary structure within the larger framework of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As a party of the ongoing Middle East peace process, Jordan hopes to see the negotiations achieve their desired and positive objective of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy. Such a peace must enable the Palestinian people to regain their historical rights and to exercise all other rights in their ancestral homeland, free from outside interference or tutelage by any party and be grounded in the principle of land for peace.

The world doubtless expects a new declaration heralding a dignity. This would require us to give the subject profound and serious consideration in order to arrive at a fresh concept of our movement's aims: on the one hand emphasising its historical constants, and on the other facing up to recent changes and drawing up plans and policies to resolve economic, fiscal and developmental problems. If we do this, we will have taken the first steps towards laying down a sound basis for a new world where knowledge, culture, economics and development take precedence over narrow considerations of politics, security and consumerism.

For all of these considerations, Jordan recognises the importance of setting up a special commission of wise men to look into challenges common to us all and to put forward the basis for dealing with these challenges. In this respect, His Royal Highness Prince Al Hassan Bin Talal, the Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has called for a meeting of a number of leading personalities to discuss a comprehensive agenda of pertinent issues that would guarantee regional cooperation on the inter and intra regional levels.

As we embark on devising a new concept for the movement and a redefinition of its role, we should take into consideration both economic factors and the requirements of growth, particularly in the social welfare fields. Insofar as they act as a stimulus for economic growth, free trade and the market economy ought to be applied globally and comprehensively. The issue of protectionism ought to be addressed. The developing countries must be able to reach the markets of the North, while at the same time resolving the problems of diminishing resources arising from the burden of debt-servicing, in addition to the adverse impact on the economies of several member states by emerging political crises. The Gulf situation is a case in point.

Solidarity, coupled with the enhancement of national independence, rates of growth, democratic principles and cultural and religious tolerance, and bolstered by the release of human capacity and the strengthening of national and regional security, for our member states, are issues which should be at the top of our agenda.

To enable the United Nations to play a genuine, effective and independent role in preserving world peace and security and contributing to the achievement of cooperation and understanding among nations, the structure of the Security Council must be reconsidered to ensure greater balance and more equitable representation for those falling outside the international decision-making framework. As part of the efforts expended to achieve effective management of international crises, emphasis should be placed on the resolution of regional issues through regional approaches — free of externally imposed interests or designs. We should, as a group, take the initiative at the United Nations and seek the adoption of an effective global regime for arms race control and disarmament in particular weapons of mass destruction.

World peace and security is not going to be enhanced by the practice of specific countries who are forced to disarm themselves while their neighbours enjoy nuclear monopoly as well as a spiralling arms race taking place regionally. These matters deserve our closest consideration if we are to look to a future which is just, secure, democratic, free of hunger, disease, ignorance or extortion — a future rooted in the second birth to our movement, presenting a clear vision of a virtuous universal government, responding to the national aspirations of our peoples, confirming their collective will, and meeting the threat of domination over resources, markets, finance and technology. The declaration should face up to the issues of hunger and outright famine as well as to those who have a hand in causing them. It should simultaneously address the dual problems of the foreign debt on the one hand and consumerism on the other, leading to dependence and deprivation in the fields of culture and information. We call for a genuine and all-embracing revolution — not only by our member countries but also by the dominant states themselves. In the final analysis, we are all in the same boat. Liberating the oppressors from the evil tendencies lurking within them is a human obligation. It will bring them back into the ranks of humanity. Should they refuse, it will cast them outside the pale of history together with their manifold sins of fanaticism, selfishness, nihilism, plunder, fear-mongering, intervention and hunger-producing practices.

A chapter of history is over. But the sustenance of the poor continues to be held to ransom by unguided world capitalism, monopolistic technology and the absence of democracy for many in this world. There is a crying need for a new chapter to be authored by ourselves, reflecting a new phase true to the vision of the Bandung pioneers who did all in their power to achieve it. Let this conference, then, be a tribute to their souls, not a dirge to their memory.

If it is true to say we are in state of crisis, it is equally true that the "others" face an even greater dilemma. This is because our own crisis falls within a cyclical, temporary and foreign-driven orbit which, given a true will and honest determination, we could eventually escape. The dilemma faced by the others, however, lies in their obstinance to ignore the existence of their own crisis and their claim of tutelage over others.

Heaven-like consumerism and ideological ruin is producing a gaping vacuum in human terms. We should face these "others" with more than mere rejection. Rather, we should ourselves embark on a creative initiative — a true human endeavour — leading us out of this dark tunnel into the bright sunshine of freedom, human dignity, a true vision, comprehensive awareness, and a new world marked by creativity and the pursuit of knowledge. Only then will the Phoenix rise again liberating the poor and hungry, and undaunted by would-be oppressors. A new world would then emerge — driven by concepts of right and justice, denuded of sectarian or racial fanaticism and untainted by evil, domination or destructive tendencies.

To conclude with a verse from the Holy Qur'an: "And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders (in faith) and make them heirs."

LETTERS

First impressions last

To the Editor:

As a native Jordanian (originally from Dibbein) living in the United States for the past 39 years, and a frequent visitor to my homeland, I was very saddened, angered and disgusted by the state of affairs of the toilets at the Jordanian/occupied West Bank border.

Politics may be the reason for the delay of hundreds of Arabs, and money (or the lack thereof) the cause of the uncomfortable and insufficient waiting areas, but I can find no reason for the HORRIBLE conditions of the toilets. Never mind the infrequent visitor, but for the hundreds of Arabs who are required to wait for days before reaching their final destination, even one "toilet" would lead a little respect to their situation.

To expect any human being to tolerate those toilets even once is unjust and inhumane. They were clogged and overflowing, and had obviously been so for quite some time. Flies were thickly swarming about the piles of misplaced waste. Even the sinks were barely recognisable. And the walls were covered with more than the obligatory bathroom graffiti. Most importantly, however, these sanitary conditions promote the spread of disease, and are a severe health hazard.

I wish I could end here but unfortunately I must mention that the last time I travelled to Damascus from Amman (in 1988), the same conditions existed at the Jordanian/Syrian border. I do not have much faith that there has been any improvement. If we cannot manage a little respect for our own people, perhaps we could at least try a bit harder for visitors to our country. After all, first impressions are lasting impressions.

Linda Owens,
c/o P.O. Box 8372,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Fergie and Di stories — a study in royal contrasts

By Anne Senior
Reuters

The left-wing Daily Mirror felt moved to write a glowing editorial this week in honour of the 31-year-old princess.

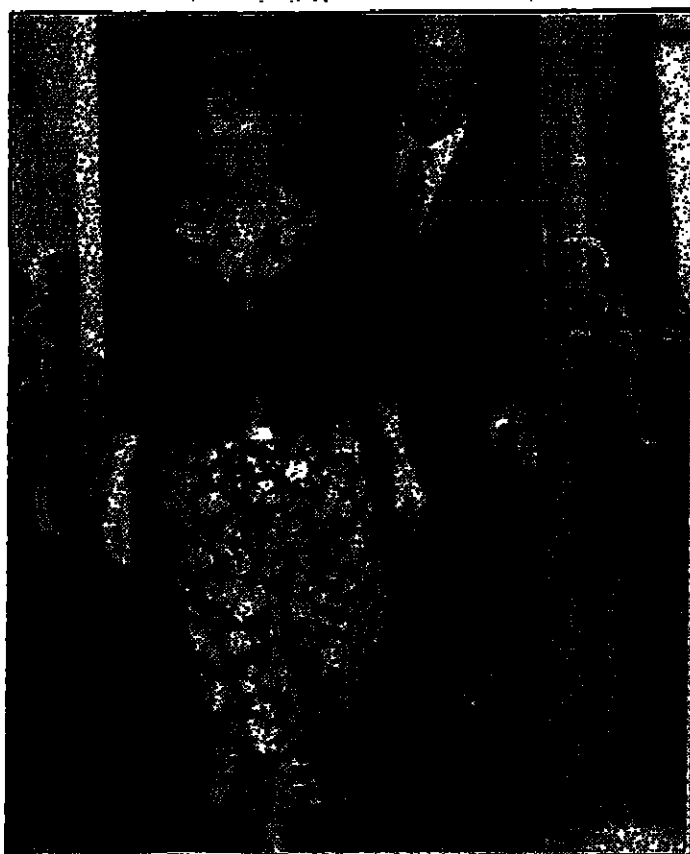
"Princess Diana was thrust young and untrained into a role which would have daunted an hereditary princess schooled from childhood for public duties," it said. "She has suffered from self-doubts, illnesses and severe marriage problems. But she has set aside her frustrations and overcome her fears."

Hardly a word about the scandal over a widely publicised tape recording of a telephone conversation between a woman, said to be Princess Diana, and a male friend who calls her by a pet name "squidgy" and says several times that he loves her.

The tape was declared genuine, but dismissed by the Mirror as "illegally and despicably monitored, taped and published."

But when a photographer sneaked up to a private estate to photograph the 32-year-old Duchess of York in only her bikini bottoms, the Daily Mirror bought up the whole set of photographs and splashed them for two days in a row last week.

The stories of Fergie and Diana have always been a study in contrasts, betraying a love of stereotypes in the way Britain's royal soap



The Duchess of York with her Texan financial adviser John Bryan

opera is presented to the public.

Right from the start, Princess Diana was recognised as heroine material. Young, pure and submissive, she was the archetypal "fairytale"

bride when she married Prince Charles in 1981. Motherhood further endeared her to her public and to crown it all, she took up the cause of battling AIDS. A cult grew up around

"saint Di" and some Britons even claimed the glamorous young princess had healing powers.

Fergie — mature, curvaceous, and to cap it all, a "career woman" — soon found herself cast as the royal rebel who could never do anything right.

To be fair, the former Sarah Ferguson gave the tabloids plenty to complain about. She was rich and privileged, and was not ashamed to show it, but she also did her best at shaking hands and working for charity.

People seemed to care more about the size of her hips — quite average compared with other British women but fuller than Princess Diana's, who, friends say, suffers from the slimming disease bulimia nervosa.

"She's actually breaking the royal mould," said Beverley Skeggs, a lecturer in media studies, in an interview with Reuters last year about sexist undertones in press coverage of the royals. "Princess Di was safe. The Duchess of York wants to participate in a man's world and she is censured for it."

The Evening Standard pondered the different reactions to the two royal wives in a column headlined "Princess perfect and the duchess who

can do no right."

It decided that Diana was a better royal worker than Fergie, whose indiscretion was on a much bigger scale than the possible emotional attachment suggested by the "Dianagate" tape.

The tape could be interpreted as showing a platonic affair while Fergie's photographs left Britons in little doubt as to the nature of her relationship with American businessman John Bryan.

The woman on the tape is discreet, discussing how to cover her tracks by claiming to have back treatment when she is really going to see her friend. The name of the woman, and her husband, is never mentioned in the 20-minute recording of the mobile telephone conversation.

"But another reason for their different reputations is less worthy. It is physical. Di looks like the icon of royalty, of dignity, of motherhood. Fergie looks carnal and vulgar," wrote the Evening Standard's columnist Melanie McDonagh.

"Women saw her (Fergie) as themselves, corroded with self-hatred about their flawed bodies. Perhaps that's what we can't forgive about Fergie — she's no better than she ought to be, and no better than us."



Princess of Wales

Unification marriage means living apart

By Diane Stormont
Reuters

SEOUL — By the standards of the recent mass wedding of 60,000 people, the ceremony in which Kristopher and Eiko Esplin exchanged marriage vows three years ago was an intimate affair involving just 2,544 brides and grooms.

Kris, from Gosport, England, and Eiko, of Hiroshima, Japan, are members of Korean Evangelist Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, a controversial movement that has been vilified as a heretical, weird and dangerous cult.

Forty thousand church members chanted their marriage vows in Seoul's Olympic Stadium Tuesday in the world's largest mass wedding.

Another 20,000 pledged their troth by satellite in the ceremony organised by the Unification Church.

It is now 10 years since the church lost a British libel case against the Daily Mail newspaper which wrote that the movement brainwashed its followers.

Almost seven years have passed since Rev. Moon completed a jail sentence for tax evasion in the United States.

Church members say their movement has endured and matured and that it is time the rest of the world recognised its followers as normal human beings pursuing a legitimate religion.

"In the early days, we turned the other cheek," said Kris, 34. "Now it is time to defend our beliefs and take the spiritual offensive."

One of the first targets is the term "Moonie", which the church deems offensive.

"If it's printed in newspapers, we will respond, write to the editor, that sort of thing," said Kris.

For Kris and Eiko, 28, life since their mass wedding in 1989 has been one of rising early and living apart in separate communal dormitories in Seoul.

The church assigned them to stay in a South Korea, considered the chosen land, to carry out mission work.

Both rise at about 3.30 a.m. for their first daily task — delivering the Segye Ilbo, one of a stable of church newspapers and magazines that includes the Washington Times.

The rest of the morning is generally spent back at their respective dormitories, studying or napping.

Afternoons are passed in missionary work, going door-to-door to spread the word, manning "witness" or pro-studying centres or in group planning sessions.

They have little privacy. They sleep on fold-away Ko-

rean mattresses in large rooms that serve as sleeping, studying and living quarters for half a dozen other members, strictly segregated by gender.

The women shop and cook. The men wash up. The pastor and his wife in charge of each centre dole out funds for provisions and pocket money sufficient for their day-to-day needs.

"Sometimes we get potatoes," said Kris wistfully, but most of the women are Japanese or Korean, so Asian menus predominate.

Both brought a stipend of about \$4,000 each when they arrived for their marriage and handed it to the church.

When cash runs short, they return to the fund-raising activities — usually selling trinkets on streets and in offices — that dominated their early years in the movement.

Do they mind living apart? They say they were just unlucky to be assigned separate quarters. They meet for lunch and they work together.

Kris, tall, short-haired and clean-cut, is off to a church-run theological college in New York soon. He hopes Eiko will get a job to support them.

"It'll be nice to live together," he said. "The communal living bit is just at first. Most people eventually settle down in jobs and live ordinary family lives. They sort of become Sunday members."

Kris was backpacking when recruiters approached him on the streets of New York in 1982. Eiko was killing an hour after a job interview in Japan in 1983 when the same thing happened.

Both attended courses, retreats and study groups be-

fore joining up to the horror of their parents.

Both sets have come round, though, they say.

They undertook an "apprenticeship" involving raising funds through sales of trinkets and proselytising for four or five years, living communally — Kris in New York, Eiko in Delaware.

They were "matched" as spouses by Rev. Moon in New York in 1987 — the men lined up on one side of the room and the women on the other and Rev. Moon roamed the room, pairing off couples.

After the mass marriage, all couples are separated for 40 days but most are expected to undergo a two or three year "courtship" before beginning married life — unless the wife's biological clock is ticking away, in which case married life begins sooner.

Book review

The nothing war

Mr. Bush's War: Adventures In The Politics Of Illusion

By Stephen R. Graubard
I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £14.95

The Imperial Temptation: The New World Order And America's Purpose

By Robert W. Tucker And David C. Hendrickson
Council On Foreign Relations Press, New York 1992, \$14.95

Perhaps it is hitting a man when he is down to have a go at George Bush these days. His presidential strengths melt in the summer sun; his popularity in the opinion polls slides downwards; his Gulf war triumph turned sour long ago with Saddam Hussein's obstinate survival; few can mouth the words "new world order" with a straight face. But no inhibitions hold back the professional authors of these two books as they lambast President Bush for his irresponsibility, short-sightedness and lack of intellectual rigor. And, after all, the points they are making may still be relevant, the threats to bomb Baghdad that rumbled in July, suggest that nothing very much has changed.

Stephen Graubard, a professor of history at Brown University, writes the fiercer book, taking pleasure in his own passionate lack of objectivity. Passion, he insists, is essential for any writer who wishes to comment truthfully on the tragic century in which we live. It leads him to expose Mr. Bush as a poor vain creature with no compensating virtues, the apprentice to Ronald Reagan's sorcerer, with minimal understanding of the changes that are going on in the world, a leader who thought the Gulf war would be Grenada, Libya and Panama on a larger scale.

The thesis of both books is that the United States, now the lone superpower, finds it hard to see beyond the big stick. The great changes in the world pass America's rulers by. Mr. Bush, argues Graubard, puts his faith in America's military prowess, ignoring his country's economic and social distress. The banality of his "new world order" reflects Ronald Reagan's eight years of empty moralising. And although Mr. Bush knew precisely what he was doing when he went to war with Iraq, he had no idea how to make peace.

Robert Tucker, a professor of American foreign policy at Johns Hopkins University, and David Hendrickson, a professor of political science at Colorado College, also argue that President Bush, in pursuit of a new world role, has given military force a position that is excessive and disproportionate. Their central criticism is that he undertook an imperial role without discharging the classic duties and responsibilities of an imperialist.

Mr. Bush should not have gone to war against Iraq, they argue, but once he did he should not have stopped when he did; both the starting and the stopping were wrong. American guidelines required massive use of firepower and then speedy withdrawal from the scene of destruction. In order to keep the war popular with the American public, Mr. Bush had, above all, to avoid American casualties and a protracted engagement.

These are angry, polemical books by academics distressed at the way American foreign policy is missing the exciting chances offered by the end of the cold war. They see the Gulf war as an example of short-sightedness, missed opportunities and ambiguity. The Imperial Temptation is the more soberly written book but comes to roughly the same conclusions. The Gulf war, writes Graubard, was a nothing war, resolving nothing, settling nothing — Middle East International.

Barbara Smith

Struggle in Africa to see who will rule the airwaves

By Ibrahim Fall

DAKAR: Africa's attempts to renew its political systems — through promotion of human rights, respect for pluralism and encouragement of people with new and creative ideas — is beginning to affect the continent's predominantly state-owned radio networks.

The potential impact on development is enormous, because surveys have shown that more than 80 per cent of the population has access to a radio, making it easily the cheapest and most effective means of communication on the continent.

The justification for 30 years of suffocating administrative and political control over the electronic media has been the need to build nations within often artificial national boundaries.

But people who have been forgotten by years of maldevelopment, and who no longer wish to be led by autocrats, are waking up. One change has been an explosion of independent newspapers and increased freedom for the journalists who work for them — a development which has further discredited government-owned radio services.

The struggle for pluralism will be difficult: Ministers of information remain in political and editorial control, and many countries lack laws

allowing private initiative. But the idea that radio can withstand the liberalisation which is transforming the state and the independent press looks increasingly untenable. The utility of the idea has been demonstrated by foreign stations broadcasting alternative information and information which has been censored locally.

Mali has led the way with legislative changes, by democratisation of the national radio following the fall of the Moussa Traore regime in 1990, and by enabling three other stations to come into existence. A privately-owned television station is imminent.

One of the new radio stations, Kayes Rural Radio, set up as part of Malian-Italian development cooperation during Mr. Traore's rule, aims at small farmers and their concerns.

But the first to challenge the state monopoly in the capital was Radio Bamakan. Says director Modibo Diallo: "We took advantage of the legal vacuum to set ourselves up."

He notes that at one point the government wanted to close it down, but was deterred by the station's strong public support. It was catering for the main groups in the uprising which led to the fall of the dictatorship — young people, students and the unemployed.

The other two stations are Radio Kaira, which began in June and is directed by filmmaker Cheikh Omar Sissoko, and Radio Liberte, the only openly commercial station.

Burkina Faso, another pioneer of radio pluralism, has two commercial stations: Radio Horizon in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. Their accent is on music, games and sports. Founder Moustapha Thiombano — who sees himself more as an artiste than as a journalist — says a survey by the international station Radio Africa No. 1 showed that Horizon was more popular with the audience than international broadcasts or the official radio, which he says, "plays nothing but drumbeats."

The changing situation is illustrated in Senegal, where a dynamic and professional press has contrasted with an inviolable state monopoly of the airwaves.

Now, however, Radio France Internationale and a local partner broadcast 40 hours of "world programmes" in addition to output from Radio Senegal. The Dakar authorities are also negotiating with a number of Senegalese proposers of commercial FM stations. (FM requires less equipment than short or medium wavebands).

Negotiations are most advanced with the group which

publishes the weekly newspaper Sud Hebdo, but two other publications — the daily Le Soleil and the satirical weekly, Le Cafard Libere — have submitted proposals. Negotiations with Sudcom, a communication, publishers of Sud Hebdo, have been tough because the government wants to treat local groups and international organisations on the same footing when it comes to renting airtime, and also seeks to place draconian restrictions on access to advertising.

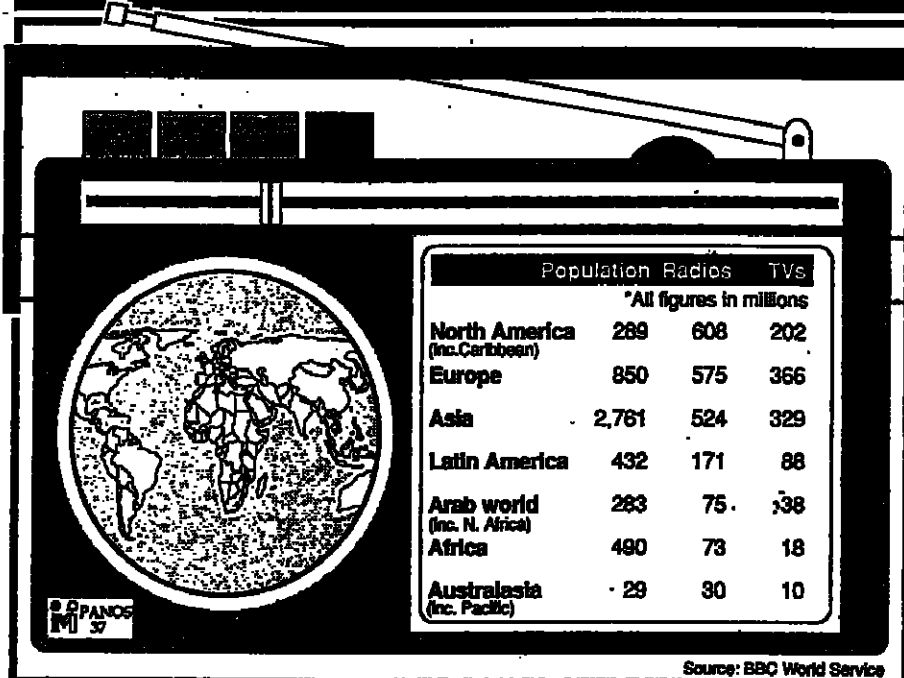
Earlier this year President Abdou Diouf disclosed that the creation of a second radio and TV channel, like those in Kenya and Zimbabwe, was under consideration. Senegal also now has a radio and television council, whose responsibilities include managing airtime allocated to candidates during elections. Benin, Gabon, Niger, and Congo have communications councils with varying powers and roles.

Despite such changes, governments are still hesitant about relaxing control over radio.

Neighbouring Nigeria, with its four national and 32 federal stations, also has no private radio. Mohammad Sani Zorro, president of the Nigerian Journalists Union, says the union is campaigning hard for liberalisation of the airwaves, and Nigerian media professionals are pressing for the establishment of an independent body responsible for management of communications.

— Panos Features.

How the world tunes in



JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 3

8:30 The Simpsons

In a future capability test Lisa is seen as a homemaker and Bart as a policeman and he is given the chance to play policeman in school.

9:10 W.I.O.U.

Wife Abuse

Channel 12 news crew investigates a brutal deputy chief of police who beats his wife.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Winter — Kill

Starring: Andy Griffith

A murderer chooses his victims from the diary of a young woman.

Friday, Sept. 4

8:30 The Golden Girls

Dorothy blames the football coach because he did not include Kevin in the match. He offers to do that if she goes out with him.

9:10 The Gravy Train

A former U.N. official who is German, arrives in Brussels, the headquarters of the European Community, to start his work there.

10:00 News In English

10:20 El C.I.D.

Paradise Mislaid

Blake's half brother comes to visit, and he is involved in a scam investigated by Blake and Bromley.

11:10 The Powers That Be

Bill Gets Shot

During the celebration of the daughter's wedding anniversary the senator is shot by mistake.

Saturday, Sept. 5

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

This week's guest is Dr. Hassan Hanafi from the University of Cairo.

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series

Grass Roots

Starring: John Slover and Rod Taylor.

A murder case in Gengia reveals the existence of a secret organisation against coloured people.

Sunday, Sept. 6

8:30 Coach

9:10 The Green World

Australia

The documentary talks about the oldest evidence on the growth and development of plants in Australia. This evidence is four million years old. The episode also deals with Australia's rare birds and animals.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grass Roots

The organisation decides to kill the lawyer who discovered their existence but Anderson saves him and the organisation is destroyed.

Monday, Sept. 7

8:30 Close To Home

Motor Madness

Will James buy a car for his daughter?

9:10 Gone To The Dogs

Larry will fire his wife, Lorain, because she betrays him.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Stuss Family

Lili

Tuesday, Sept. 8

8:30 Acropolis Now

Jim decides to organise a beauty contest to promote the restaurant.

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:30 TECX

Italian and British investigators work in cooperation with German investigators on helping a lawyer who is defending a Chinese girl in Brussels. The girl is accused of attempting to murder a person who issued orders to kill her father.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Karate Kid

Daniel is always being harassed by a young man who studies karate. He is saved by his old Japanese neighbour, the karate teacher, who shows him how to defend himself.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zak competes with Jessy's group on new business ideas.

9:10 Man Of The People

Mr. Doyle Goes To Vegas

James will accompany Rita to Las Vegas to attend the American mayors' convention instead of the real mayor Elizabeth.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bethune The Making Of A Hero

The Journey To Mao

Starring: Helen Shaver

A Canadian doctor joins the medical services in China during the Japanese invasion in 1938.

The golden braids

By E. Yaghi

February. The rain beat down non-stop for days. The head with the golden braids stared out the bay window and the mouth that belonged to the braids said: "When will this downpour ever stop? Is Ghassan going to get married in such weather? I do wish he'd hurry home from Tulkarem so I can see the things he bought for my wedding and admire the pink dress he promised to buy me. Please, Ghassan, hurry!"

Rawda's frail 15 year-old figure pressed against the window pane and her large green eyes looked intently out of the glass orifice in the two storey building at the drops of rain plogging in puddles of mud that gathered in the extensive yard which belonged to her brother. It was so easy to slip into one of her daydreams while she impatiently waited. A smile crossed her face when she remembered how Ghassan had said to her mother in their kitchen, "I'm taking my youngest sister to my house for a few days. She's much too serious for a girl her age. She needs a change of scenery. Besides, I'm going to buy her a beautiful dress so on my wedding day she'll be the prettiest girl around." He had told her: Don't tell me what colour you want, because we all know pink is your favourite.

The green eyes sparkled and the gold braids floated as she danced a circle round her mother, gave her a hug and said, "Oh, mother, please, could I? I'll go home with you on the day of the wedding. I promise I won't be a bother and I can help Ghassan with the arrangements!"

Her mother chuckled at the antics of the youngest of her twelve children and replied, "All right. I guess if you're with your brother, everything should be fine. Mind you, don't get in the way, don't talk too much and don't get lost in one of your silly daydreams and forget where you are!"

The sparkle in the eyes dimmed, the face grew grim and the frail figure stiffened. "How could I forget where I am! I'm in the middle of the infatuation like everyone else so daydreaming is my only escape from the nightmare of everyday life. But anyway, I'll try not to dream too much at Ghassan's. Yet, I always wish that there would come a day where we'd all be able to laugh from our hearts, be truly happy and at last be free from our oppression!"

She darted out of the kitchen, rushed into her bedroom and stuffed some clothes into a small overnight bag. She threw on her coat and ran back to Ghassan imagining him leaving without her. "I'm ready now, did I take too long?"

"Not at all, little sister," he said with a grin. "Come along now, we must get back before dark. Good-bye mother, take care of yourself," he planted a kiss on her cheek. "See you in a few days."

"Good-bye son. Good-bye dear," she stated turning to Rawda. "Be sure you're warm enough and try to eat right, you neglect yourself and you're much too thin for your age."

The girl waved farewell to her mother who stood at the door and to her brothers and sisters peering out the windows. She then grabbed Ghassan's arm and bounced alongside him to his car. Later, at her brother's home, she made some spiced tea to drink with the falafel sandwiches he had picked up on the way. "When will mother and our brothers and sisters come and join us?" she queried as she gulped down her sandwich and sipped her cup of steaming tea. "Do you think all your relatives will come to your wedding?"

They were sitting on the balcony and his face shone in the rays of moonbeams. He answered, "I'm sure a lot will come honey. But if they all try to show up, we're going to have a problem. My house is only two storeys whereas our relatives make up about 85 per cent of the village

population. Our clan is enormous so we'd have a tough time trying to stuff them all in just one building. If the weather clears up we could seat a lot of them outside. Anyway, I didn't send out invitations to everyone, you know. It's better at this time not to have large gatherings, it attracts too much attention and although the Jews realise we are a peaceful people, they look for any excuse to harass us."

The girl's green eyes widened, she tossed her golden braids and asked, "Do you think Uncle Sami will come? He's so busy as head of the local council."

"Of course he'll come, but don't worry your pretty head about anything. We'd better clear the table and go to sleep. We've got a big day ahead of us tomorrow. Adnan will be coming to help us. Did you notice that the rain stopped for a while and there's the moon shining between the clouds?"

They cleared the table together and Ghassan helped Rawda wash the dishes. "Will you still love me as much when you're married and will we still have as much fun together?"

"I'll love you forever. You are the song of the summer sun. My wife will love you too, you'll see and we'll all have so much fun together."

His words were still ringing in her ears in the middle of her daydream when she felt a hand on her thin shoulder. The golden braids flew around with a turn of her head and she inquired, "Adnan, what is taking Ghassan so long? He's been gone for hours!"

"Come away from the window little one or your eyes will fall out from staring. How many fantasies did you dream while you were waiting and watching?" Adnan asked with amusement.

"Oh, lots and the best dream was about the beautiful pink dress Ghassan promised to buy me."

"Let's go upstairs and see what the ladies are doing. I think they and the children are sitting in the enclosed balcony," Adnan said. He insisted on tugging on her hand to drag her away from her vigil.

While they climbed up the stairs she heard the sound of a car pulling into the front yard. "At last he's come." She left Adnan who continued his ascent. Nothing could stop her now. She ran back down and hastened to open the metal door. "Ghassan," she was going to shout. "Why did you take so long!" but instead she was met with a shot in her chest by some Jewish settlers who were out for a night of entertainment on their hunting party. She screamed, "Adnan, Adnan!" and collapsed on the ground.

Hearing the commotion, Adnan looked out the second floor window when suddenly three bullets whizzed past his head and shattered the glass of a nearby porthole while a fourth bullet dug into the concrete wall.

The settlers drove away in an Opel and a Peugeot laughing and bragging about their evil act. The frail girl with the dancing dreams of the pink dress she was about to wear was rushed to the Hillel Yaffa Hospital in a neighbour's Mercedes, but she died on the way. One more provocation to resist the occupation. One more innocent life taken. The next day in the relentless pouring rain, Rawda, the girl with the golden braids, took her last journey in this life chaired to her grave in a coffin draped in the Palestinian flag. A huge procession accompanied her crying and chanting, "In blood and fire, we will redeem you, O Martyred one. We are not afraid."

The village elders made a "V" sign and the youth clutched Molotov cocktails in their hands. Rawda was laid to rest while angels' tears washed away her blood that smelled like musk and then they placed a garland of eternal laurel on her golden head.

Greenland launches official Santa Claus Post Office

By Lars Foyen
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — Greenland has launched an official Santa Claus Post Office, complete with psychologists who will help answer up to 100,000 letters a year from children all over the world. The post office in Greenland's capital Nuuk, part of a \$2 million Santa Centre which will be ready before this Christmas, was officially inaugurated by Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter.

"Letters arrive every day, even in the summer. There were 80,000 last year and we think the figure will rise," Marketing Manager Frank Busk told Reuters by telephone.

"Some are addressed only to 'Santa Claus' or to 'Santa

Claus on the North Pole,' but they get here somehow, even from faraway places like Brazil or Kuala Lumpur," he said.

Ernst Pheilmann, one of the psychologists involved in the project, said he was amazed by Santa's universal appeal.

"Regardless of religion, ethnic background and nationality, all children share the same feelings about Santa. He represents the kind and humane, no doubt about it," Mr. Pheilmann said.

All letters receive a reply and a token gift from Santa. The Christmas entertainment theme park, situated in a disused dockyard, also features a workshop at which visitors can buy gifts, a Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer's Restaurant, Eskimo handicrafts and stage shows.

It aims to attract American and Japanese charter tourists.

Greenland, Denmark's Arctic province which is suffering from economic recession, hopes Santa Claus will generate around \$20 million in income to the island a year.

Mr. Schluter said it was now an undisputed fact that Santa lives in Greenland.

"Legend has it that he lives in a castle of ice in Greenland, close to the North Pole. He still does. But now we know that Santa's Post Office is to be found in Nuuk, Greenland," said a first day cover signed by Mr. Schluter.

Finland, a competitor for lucrative Christmas trade,

has also claimed Santa as its own.

But the 29th World Congress of Father Christmases, meeting in Copenhagen in the middle of a July heat wave, agreed that Santa's sole address was C/O The North Pole, Greenland, and Finland's Santa was not allowed to attend, Mr. Busk said.

The congress has certified nearly 100 Santas all over the world, many of them official city or department store Santas.

"There is even one living in Perth, Australia, who has a certificate that he is a real Santa," Mr. Busk added.

Mr. Schluter, donning a Santa outfit, was certified as a Father Christmas during his visit to Greenland.

But he promised no tax cuts.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Good morning.
- Good evening.
- Good night.
- Peace be upon you.
- Wish you a good day.

Sabah al khair.
Masha al khair.
Tisbah al khair.
Assalamu alaikum.

- Happy new year.
- How are you?
- Hope you're in good health.

Atamanna laka waqtan tayyeban.
Koll Sana winta tayyeb.
Keef halak.

- Are you busy now?
- Is your home far from here?
- Can I have a lift to the supermarket?
- Thanks a lot.

Arjoo laka tamam alsina wakafin.
Hal mnta mushgool alaan?
Hal baitak ba'eed anna hona?
Mumken twassilni lisouq al markaz?
Shukran jazeeelan.

JOKES & CRACKS

- "If the teacher does not take back what he said to me this morning, I am going to leave the school."
- "What did he say?"
- "He told me to leave the school."

Mother: You always take too many toys with you: your doll, your trolley-bus, and your ball. Let me help you carry them, dear.

Little daughter: Oh, no Mummy. I can carry the toys and you carry me.

Son: Do you feel happy if I save you 25 liras?
Father: Of course, my son. But how will you do that?
Son: Didn't you promise to give me 25 liras if I passed my exam?
Well you can save the money! I failed.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the difference between: a) Lexicon and dictionary b) Encyclopedia and thesaurus c) Glossary and vocabulary
2. Is the bicycle a dicycle?
3. Who invented the Diesel engine?
4. Where are these rivers found: Damodar, Limpopo, Yarumot, Charente?
5. Who founded the following newspapers: The Daily Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Financial Times, The Guardian?

PUZZLES

A) MAGIC SQUARES

A magic square, as most of our readers know, is one in which the numbers in the three lines across, the three vertical columns and the two diagonals each add up to the same amount.

You are invited to try your skill in constructing such squares by completing the two diagrams below. The result should be two magic squares in both of which the total of every line, as described above, is 18.

	8				

B) FISHING

If one letter is added to each word below the letters may then be rearranged to form the name of a fish. For example: if E were added to CAD the letters could be rearranged to make DACE.

1. TOUR
2. BLEAR
3. TAKE
4. DRAINS
5. TULLE
6. CENT

Solutions on page D

New age travellers attract public outcry, government clampdown

By Rosemary Laurent
Reuter

TOTNES, England — Henry is 25 and lives with his girlfriend and their two young children in a battered 1950s caravan. They are constantly on the move.

And there are more and more Henrys around these days.

Until he was 17 Henry lived in a Welsh village. Then, unable to find a job or a place to live, he moved into a vehicle and has been roaming the highways of Britain and Ireland ever since.

"Travelling is the only way I can afford to have my own home," said Henry, who has spent the past few months camped in a field near the southwestern town of Totnes.

He is one of a growing number of young people opting for a nomadic lifestyle, travelling the countryside in old caravans, buses and trucks in search of the next job, resting place, or free festival.

But these so-called "new age" or "hippy" travellers are targets of an increasing barrage of criticism from local citizens who say they are noisy, dirty and lazy.

The biggest outcry is over their summertime swarming habits when they travel in large convoys and gather in their thousands to hold music festivals at beauty spots across the country.

"It's almost like an invasion of aliens," said Anthony Gibson, southwest regional director of the National Farmers' Union. "Their dogs run wild and attack sheep, they rip up fences for firewood and they defecate in the hedges. Local people feel thoroughly uncomfortable

and threatened."

The government reaction is to launch a major review of the problem. It is considering giving police greater powers to control the movements of the "travellers." It also plans to prevent illegal camping and curb social security payments to unemployed travellers.

But the national charity for the homeless, Shelter, says the clampdown will not reduce the number of nomads.

"There seems to be an assumption that if the government cuts off benefits, it will make them settle down. But where are they going to go?" said Shelter's Jenny Smith, who is writing a book on the rights of travellers.

She believes the increase in travellers is due to harsh economic policies, particularly a 1988 decision to stop unemployment benefit for 17 and 18-year-olds and reduce payments to those under 25.

"That forced a lot of young people onto the road," said Ms. Smith.

Latest government figures show about 13,500 gypsy or traveller caravans camped on legal or illegal sites across England. But Ms. Smith believes the itinerant population could be as high as 500,000 people.

Traditional travellers and gypsies are keen to dissociate themselves from this new breed of nomad.

"Hippies have a different outlook. They live in tatty old caravans, they are dirty on occasion and have a serious drug problem which gypsies don't have," said Hughie Smith, president of the National Gypsy Council.

He said new travellers did not have the tight family structure of gypsy commu-

ties. "They don't have grandparents or in-laws travelling with them."

"When gypsies travel it's to find work. But the hippies don't have any purpose in moving except to join together for festivals, to play their music," added Ms. Smith.

In May, more than 20,000 hippy travellers occupied common (public) land near the tiny western village of Castlemorton, enraging locals for a week with all-night revelling.

In July, a mid-Wales farmer suffered thousands of pounds (dollars) worth of damage when up to 10,000 uninvited campers gathered on his land for a weekend festival.

And this month, police in the southern county of Hampshire used riot gear to clear hundreds of travellers from two festival sites. "They laid a trail of destruction behind them, with numerous thefts, reports of damage ... and injury to police officers," said a Hampshire Police statement.

Travellers insist they are not to blame for such offences. The real troublemakers, they say, are ravers, young city fun-lovers who

flock to the open air festivals at weekends and then go home again.

"Ravers don't understand the countryside, so they behave badly and local people become petrified," said Lin, a veteran traveller in her 40s who lives with her five children in two double-deck buses.

Like many travellers, Lin feels her alternative lifestyle has been misrepresented and misunderstood.

Chris, 30, who swapped his house for a van two years ago, said: "Only the bad things about us get reported, there's no newsworthiness in the positive things we do."

He said travelling had taught him self-reliance and respect for resources, such as water and electricity, that house dwellers took for granted.

"It's common sense to me, this sort of lifestyle, economically and environmentally," said Chris, who earns a living turning disused vehicles into motor homes.

His next home will be a converted fire engine, which he plans to take abroad to escape what he says is increasing intolerance and police harassment.

PEN PALS

Dear Sirs,

Please publish my name and address in your pen pal column.

My name is Robert Anderson, age 29. I am an American businessman in the Philippines, and a collector of stamps and telephone cards. My address is:

Robert Anderson
Q Plaza # 207
1900 Cainta, Rizal
Philippines

Dialogue In Expression reflects Eastern culture, experience

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Jordan National Gallery is hosting

Dialogue In Expression, an art exhibit that has a common denominator: the Eastern culture and experience.

Nabila Hilmi from Palestine, Dodi Tabbaa from Bangladesh and Naz Ikramullah from India have been

brought together specifically for this show. Past and present experiences have had a direct effect on the three exhibitions.

Their experiences are translated in a dialogue of colour, rhythm, line, and shape, which flows from their art.

Nabila Hilmi, known for her spontaneous collage scenes, comes with a slightly different form this time. Her thin vibrant lines have collected into thicker and darker masses, creating a more somber mood in her otherwise gay work.

But "I just wanted to experiment with line, since it is so important to me. For me line is connected with calligraphy and Al Khat particularly," Ms. Hilmi points out.

Her compositions, whether in ink, pastel or water colours, reflect an attempt to create volume and space by using line. She separates the lines to give us her trademark collages as in her impressions of people sitting in a living room, with a vase standing on a table. Colour here abounds in the quick lines and the smudged patches of colour.

A floral piece of magazine is used to emphasise flowers in a quickly painted vase. A piece of brown paper is part of a shoulder, and a blue one is part of a cushion.

Curves seem to fascinate this artist as she always finds a way to incorporate them in her work. In a study, Ms. Hilmi delves into the intricacies of curve within the female figure. Anatomy is represented by using contrasting dark and light colours.

Even though Ms. Hilmi shows the public another facet to her art at this exhibition, her affinity with transparency is evident. It moves one into the past, as pastel tones engulf a rustic looking

picture of three women from some mysterious age, it brings us back to the present, with its political upheaval, in the form of light blues and pinks accompanied by stark black masses of jagged line.

The 40 paintings which are the accumulation of two years of hard work show an artist determined to experiment with different media, as it suits her purpose and mood, yet adhering to common characteristics of her work: Transparency, line, colour, and space.

The light mood witnessed in Ms. Hilmi's paintings is brought to exploding heights in Dodi Tabbaa's collages.

Obviously influenced by her graphic design training, she cuts up irregular pieces of corrugated paper and sticks them on top of each other to give relief and contrast to her compositions.

These pieces are painted in contrasting colours and juxtaposed, highlighting certain points or just picking up some designs on an otherwise black background.

Other series are done using this same method, but rather than having the paper stacked haphazardly on top of one another, the collage is stuck vertically. Here an almost ethnic atmosphere prevails, further defined in the two-dimensional painting groups: Vertical collages stand back to back in a glass and black frame. Each side reflects a painting standing regally on a white block.

The artist's sculptor husband has had a great influence on her life, she says, and has also inspired these sculptural pieces.

"My inspiration also comes from jazz, opera, and, of course, Samer's (her husband's) work, which constantly surrounds me and influences me," says Mrs. Tabbaa.

When painting, the musical rhythms and moods find themselves in her wiggly

lines, gold-dotted surfaces or random trails of bright oranges, reds, and yellows.

Mrs. Tabbaa's pieces are covered with patterns; some are actual paintings, cut up and incorporated into her works.

"Ode to Puccini's Opera Madame Butterfly" is made up of patterned pieces done in black lines and dotted with light. These ten neatly-cut rectangular paintings are in miniature and are all embodied within one frame. Many of her collages are collected into groups and are framed together.

The third and last artist, Naz Ikramullah, continues her colleagues' dialogue with collage.

Presenting an interesting combination of colour and themes, she reflects experiences she could have been involved in either directly or indirectly.

The majority of her prints are peopled and filled with one form of vegetation or another. But particularly recurring are leafless trees or uprooted plants, with emphasis on the thin and frail branches or roots.

Even though she sticks to collages, she manipulates this art form in her own way; she organises many of her compositions on a xerox machine and even inserts pieces of her personal photographs on the photocopy machine.

The artist finds that "one can assemble successfully one full image requiring a great deal of manipulation of the colours and forms on the machine. Collage is a good medium for the kind of imagery I make; it lies between straight painting and print making."

Colours here are not as glossy as Mrs. Tabbaa's or as fresh as Ms. Hilmi's; yet this makes the work resonate with a classical mood.

The subdued browns and abundant rusty greens add a haunted aspect to the work.

Further emphasising this are the collage strips of smoke and clouds. It is as if the artist is trying to recreate a film strip as she feels that "film succeeds on all levels: Eye, ear, and thought."

Similar to the other two artists Ms. Ikramullah's dialogue is an expression of past and present, merging into one. Her work shares a common strand of thought with Mrs. Tabbaa's and that is the either conscious or unconscious emergence of background.

A lot of oriental aspects are portrayed, such as domes.

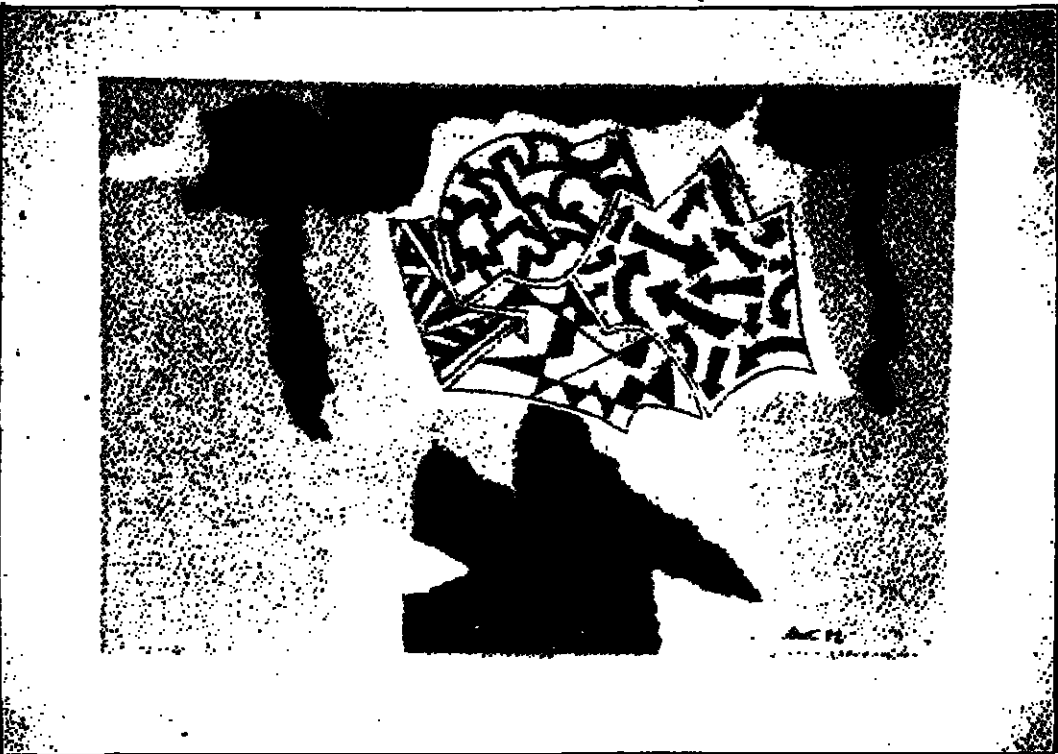
Even though Mrs. Tabbaa's work is less blunt and more abstract, both artists show the effect culture has had on them.

Ms. Ikramullah's work is full of rectangles, mirroring some scene or another, beneath which lies a contrasting image of people suffering or just a landscape. The blocks she utilises are mostly vertical, and this overlapping provides dimension and depth to her compositions.

Dialogue In Expression is about life, art, politics, sadness and beauty, all brought into one show at the Jordan National Gallery.



Camouflaged Amphibian by Dodi Tabbaa



Intermezzo by Dodi Tabbaa



Collage by Nabila Hilmi

S. Korean film probes scars of Vietnam experience

By Diane Stormont
Reuters

SEOUL — Seventeen years after its last soldier returned home, South Korea is beginning to lift the veil on a taboo subject and come to terms with its Vietnam War experience.

Film-makers and novelists are the ones probing the scars — a painful and emotional process for many who were caught up in the aftermath of a foreign war.

"About 300,000 Korean soldiers fought in the Vietnam War, but there has been no serious movie about it until now," said film director Chung Ji-Young.

"The Vietnam War was swept under the carpet for many years."

His film White Badge is the first Vietnam War movie to look at the South Korean role, wars and all. It has drawn angry protests from the Vietnam Veterans' Association in South Korea.

Based on a novel by Ahn Jung-Hyo, who served in South Korea's White Horse Division in Vietnam, White Badge pulls no punches. It regards the South Korean soldiers who served in the war as mercenaries of the Americans.

"They should not have been there," Chung said. The film addresses in detail the atrocities committed by the "daihan" troops — the Vietnamese name for the South Koreans. South Korean troops were regarded by allies and enemies alike as tough, even brutal warriors.

Filmed in Vietnam, White Badge views the war through the haunted eyes of Sergeant Han Ki-Ju, a brooding intellectual who returns to Seoul with a textbook case of "Vietnam Syndrome."

An encounter with an even more seriously disturbed veteran triggers a series of flashbacks.

Some scenes are not for the squeamish. Much of the sym-

bolism of the film hinges on the severing of ears.

"I know the government didn't like it," said Chung. Censorship has been light, however. Three cuts were ordered — a broiled scene and two scenes involving the severing of ears.

War veterans, angry about the atrocities portrayed, demanded broad cuts. They tried to insist that Chung include scenes showing South Korean war veterans helping Vietnamese villagers.

"Korean involvement ... earned the country hard currency at a time when South Korea was one of the poorest nations in Asia. While South Korea was paying its soldiers the equivalent of \$10 per month, those who went to Vietnam got \$45 per month from the U.S.," the film's brochure said.

Returning soldiers, lugging back U.S. television sets, washing machines and consumer goods bought in American commissaries, were hailed as heroes until Hanoi's victory made it taboo to discuss the war in staunchly anti-Communist South Korea.

It was only this year that Seoul acknowledged that 4,687 of the 312,853 soldiers sent to fight, "for the American cause and American dollars," were killed.

The first South Korean soldier left for Vietnam on Sept. 22, 1964, sent by strongman President Park Chung-Hee as part of a promise to U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to support the war effort.

Seoul feared the U.S. would withdraw its troops stationed in South Korea unless it backed American efforts in Vietnam.

The last South Korean soldier left Vietnam on April 30, 1975.

The Veterans' Association is now collating claims. No compensation has been paid to South Korean survivors.

German Shakespeare Society to reunite in 1993

By Andreas Rossmann

WEIMAR — "Germany is Hamlet!" This is how Ferdinand Freiligrath begins his poem from the year 1844 in which he stylises the Danish prince as an allegory of the German spirit and reproaches him for his procrastination which he interprets as lack of political commitment. This famous opening line has long become historic, and even if Macbeth has meanwhile achieved success as a national identification figure, can lay claim to validity again and again. It can be related today to those Germans who have gathered together in Shakespeare's name to promote "knowledge, cultivation and acquisition" of his work — as they pledge in their statutes.

The German Shakespeare Society which, because of the political constraints of the time, was split in two — with headquarters in Weimar and Bochum — in 1963, seems to be guided by Hamlet's hesitant spirit along the road to reunification. This is not to take place until 1993.

Founded in Weimar in 1864, on the Elizabethan's 300th birthday, the German Shakespeare Society is the oldest literary association in Europe. An industrialist from Siegerland, who was working in Dessau at the time, seized the initiative. He not only met with the good-will of Grand Sophie of Saxony; his idea also coincided with similar plans by Franz von Dingelstedt, the court-theatre director, who was preparing a cycle of Shakespeare's historical tragedies in Weimar. The German Shakespeare Society brought out its first yearbook in 1865 and a popular edition of Shakespeare's works in 1891 — at a price of three marks. It erected a life-size statue of the writer in the park on the Ilm in 1904. Its history — "William Shakespeare" — is, like that of Hamlet, a mirror of the time. When, at the outbreak of war in 1914, many members, blinded by hate of England, asked if they were allowed to keep their "Wil-

liam", Gerhard Hauptmann gave them the redeeming answer: "Yes, he is allowed. And not only allowed: he is imperative!"

In 1934, however, Rainer Schöller, Reich literary and artistic director and a friend of Reich Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, joined the society which now considered itself linked with Shakespeare through "blood bonds" and believed to see "basic racist elements of the Nordic" in his "universal dramatic works." The first meeting after the war took place in Bochum in 1946 where theatre manager Saldin Schmitt had assumed office as president three years previously. The theatre there has performed all the Elizabethan's plays — the only theatre to do so to this day.

How it came to the split in 1963 is an intricate story which, made even more complicated by legal and statutory questions, has been assessed controversially. Neither side is without blame for the fact that Shakespeare got caught between the fronts in the cold war. Whereas the west German society in Bochum established itself as a somewhat stuffy teachers' association, the east German society in Weimar was brought into line by the ruling party. Hamlet was praised as an "activist" and "progressive person," Shakespeare as a "signpost of humanising humanity," and east Germany as the country where his ideals would be realised.

Relations between Weimar and Bochum were put on ice for years. The east German society, which continued to have members from the west, claimed to be the sole legitimate representative in the first instance. Both sides have "respected" each other since the 1970s but did not begin talking with each other until 1986. The first "exchange of official delegations" took place in 1988. Robert Weimann, the one and only English scholar of repute in east Germany, was elected president in 1985. In 1988,

Heiner Müller made a syllabic speech "in Shakespeare-remote Weimar" which provocatively terminated the harmony with the classical writer. "Shakespeare is a mirror through the ages, our hope a world he no longer reflects," He said further: "We shan't get anywhere as long as Shakespeare writes our plays."

The Shakespeare Society came through the turn-around with Weimann. Although two separate meetings were held this year, the iced-up attitudes on both sides have long thawed out and both executive committees work harmoniously with each other. Thus the Shakespeare festival in Weimar in 1992 took place between times: The former situation where it was a niche and window to the world has gone. Its new constitution which is to act as a model is still not in existence. The subsidised onrush of visitors during the east German days has died down, the number of participants has dropped from 1,200 to 880. The decline in membership figures is considerable (from over 2,000 to 1,400), guests from East European countries were rare. The fascination of Weimar, on the other hand, is greater than ever: cultural tourism is booming.

Spring is also a metaphor here. Public life has recovered the city precincts with their well-proportioned squares and picturesque spots. Restoration and building is going on all around. A stately house in Windische Straße is being put in order for the Shakespeare Society, which apart from office, library and workrooms, will also house an English pub and — if possible — the British Council.

The Royal Shakespeare Company will be guest in Weimar next year, thus undoubtedly underscoring scenically the city's rather casually formulated claim to being Stratford-on-Ilm. The legal points for the solemn reunification have been set. The complicated procedure is planned as follows: the meeting in 1993 will begin with the

two separate members assemblies and the necessary amendments to the statutes approved to the effect that the Bochum society will accede to the Weimar society as a "branch association." This will pave the way to the election of a new executive committee — for the first and only time on the basis of equal representation. The minor "main-city question" was also unanimously solved.

Both places are to remain Shakespeare centres and serve as meeting places alternately in the future. Weimar, however, is to be the main headquarters of the society — for both historical and cultural reasons.

Following the first term of office, the division is to come to an end, but not forgotten:

"Shakespeare and Re-membering" is the topic for next year when the society also intends to concern itself with its own highly besmirched past. The Federal President, who has assumed patronage for 1993, may well find the motto for this in the last verse of the Comedy Of Errors: "And now let's go hand in hand, not one before another" — IN-Press.



There is an extensive Shakespeare library in the Rococo Room in the Grüne Schloß in Weimar. The two German Shakespeare Societies (formerly

in east and west Germany) intend to merge next year. The German Shakespeare Society is regarded as the oldest literary association in Europe.

Vegetarianism: Advocates adopt 'new' way to save heart and Earth

By Mary MacVean
The Associated Press

AT the Source, the Hollywood restaurant where Woody Allen ordered a fictional plate of mashed yeast in his movie Annie Hall, vegetable burgers outsell hamburgers 10 to one, says owner Winton Winslow.

If that's to be expected, how about the veggie burgers

and Mississippi vegetable stew for sale at Disneyland?

No longer quirky, vegetarianism has gone mainstream, and its cheerleaders are thrilled. They feel liberated and vindicated with each new health report praising plant-based diets, and rally around the arguments that our meat-centered diet is helping destroy the planet.

Besides, vegetarian food

these days can taste pretty great, as chefs tease flavor from herbs and incorporate the tastes of India, Thailand, Italy or Mexico to satisfy even the most entrenched steak lover. Hippie-style lentil loaves and aescetic bowls of boiled greens are dishes of the past.

An estimated 8 million to 12 million people in the United States are vegetarians.

For anyone who wants to learn to be a vegetarian, there's abundant advice and moral support in Vegetarian Times, which boasts a paid circulation of 200,000. Imaginative meatless meals can be found in dozens of cookbooks. A Vegetarian Times guide in 1978 listed 350 restaurants; in 1990-91, it listed more than 1,000.

In a Gallup poll commissioned by the National Restaurant Association last year, a third of the respondents said they were likely to order vegetarian.

United Airlines serves

500,000 vegetarian meals a year (still a tiny slice of the 70 million meals it serves overall), and Lufthansa ads have bragged about its vegetarian food. Supermarkets sell tofu and meat substitutes.

Once, vegetarians' health was thought to be in jeopardy, for lack of protein and iron in particular. Now health experts nag meat-eaters, too, to watch what they eat.

Preliminary results from a major, continuing study of 6,500 people in China suggest the risk of heart problems, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis and other diseases is reduced for people eating a plant-based diet, according to researcher T. Colin Campbell of Cornell University.

Experts say a well-planned vegetarian diet — even one without eggs or dairy products — can provide all necessary nutrients. Even the theory that you had to combine proteins from plant foods at every meal, such as

rice and beans or bread and peanut butter, has been discounted. It's enough, experts say, to make sure a day's diet contains complementary plant proteins.

Even the very mainstream American Dietetic Association (ADA) supports vegetarianism, although it and most health authorities say diets that include meat can be perfectly healthful and that vegetarians who turn to chips and cookies for sustenance aren't doing themselves any favors.

"It's fairly simple and straightforward," said Suzanne Havala, a dietitian who wrote the ADA's position paper. Anyone who gets enough calories, eats a variety of foods and few junk foods "can't go wrong," she said at the second international congress on vegetarian nutrition, sponsored by Loma Linda University and held in suburban Washington, D.C.

Vegetarians generally are

leaner than their meat-eating friends, have lower death rates from several chronic diseases, lower blood pressures and lower cholesterol levels, the ADA says. This, however, may result from healthier living overall — more exercise and fiber, for example.

So forgive vegetarians if they get a little smug. In her cookbook, Simply Vegan, Reed Mangels writes: "Since meat-eaters are more likely than are vegetarians to die of diet-related disease...perhaps meat-eating Americans should spend more time properly planning their diets."

Environmentalists argue that modern meat production has contributed to global warming through methane gas emitted by cattle, to deforestation or desertification of land through grazing, to pollution by manure, and to world hunger as farmers grow feed grain rather than food grain.

Diet For A Small Planet sounded an early alarm two decades ago with author Frances Moore Lappe's argument that land planted with animal feed could be used to feed hungry people.

She struck a chord and sold 3 million books. John Robbins, of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream family, makes similar arguments through his Earthsave Foundation. And Jeremy Rifkin fueled the cattle industry's scorn with his condemnation of it in Beyond Beef, published in March.

Rifkin "wants to get rid of beef. We think beef is a good product," said Rick McCarthy, spokesman for the National Cattlemen's Association, which counters just about every allegation the environmentalists make.

But even some environmentalists argue that livestock are compatible with a sustainable agriculture system, and even the "beyond beef campaign," an offshoot of Rifkin's book, asks only

that people cut their red meat consumption in half, not eliminate it.

The problem, Worldwatch researcher Alan Durning says, is that American meat production overuses grain, water, land and energy, and produces too much air and water pollution. For example, more than 70 per cent of U.S. grain production is fed to livestock.

To animal lovers, it's the killing of another creature that provides all the motivation they need.

"We graze cattle on the western land, and the wolves and predators are killed so they don't kill cows. Then cows are killed and turned into burgers, and that kills people, and then the medical community kills research animals to figure out what's killing us," said Tony White of Earthsave in New York.

"What's wrong with this picture? It's a cycle of death, you could say."

Talking about meat-eating

Here are some views on eating meat:
"The enlightened mortals of the 20th century will surely be vegetarians." — Frances Willard, 19th-century feminist and temperance leader.

"I don't understand why asking people to eat a well-balanced vegetarian diet is considered drastic, while it is medically conservative to cut people open or put them on powerful cholesterol-lowering drugs the rest of their lives." — Dr. Dean Ornish, author of Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease.

"Non-violence begins with a fork." — Feminists for Animal Rights.

Sibling abuse leaves long-lasting effects — study

By Malcolm Ritter

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON (— Children who are chronically roughed up or picked on by their siblings may show psychological problems in young adulthood, research says.

Two studies linked such childhood experiences to greater anxiety, lower self-esteem and more depressed mood in college students.

While some verbal and physical conflict between childhood siblings is normal, the problems can arise when the violence becomes severe, said Sandra Graham-Bermann. She said instances of severe abuse can include a child threatened with a gun or knife, or a child who is constantly on the receiving

end of violence or abuse and feels powerless to stop it.

"Kids insult each other all the time, but if there's one person in the family who's the scapegoat or the victim all the time... that person may develop problems in young adulthood," she said.

"Children shove and push each other, they might even hit each other as a regular part of growing up. But when it's one-sided, if it goes on for years, when there's nothing the victim can do to stop it, then that child is at risk."

About a quarter of the childhood sibling relationships recalled by the primarily white, upper-middle-class sample of college students in the research were bad enough that parents should have stepped in, she

said. Parents generally knew of the problem but many did not help, she said.

Graham-Bermann, an assistant professor of clinical psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, spoke in an interview before presenting the work at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

One study focused on the psychological health of 202 students at Michigan who were distributed about equally among four groups: Those who recalled being victimized by a high level of conflict with a sibling, those who initiated such conflict, those who both started fights and were attacked, and those who experienced only normal levels

of conflict.

"High conflict" generally meant fighting on the level of hitting, spanking or slapping or worse that exceeded what the student believed other families experienced, and that continued as a long-term pattern, Graham-Bermann said.

Conflict was found to be more common at ages 6 to 12 than at ages 13 to 18.

Psychological tests showed that for female childhood victims, the higher the level of violence, in terms of hazard and duration, the greater the anxiety, lowered self-esteem and persistent depressed mood as college students.

Male childhood victims showed only a link to lowered

self-esteem.

However, the second study found that males who felt they had been highly abused by a sibling showed all three outcomes. Women showed only greater anxiety.

While the first study covered long-term physical conflict, this second study was limited to people whose experience went beyond that, into the realm of abuse. Examples included repeated pummeling with injuries, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse such as constantly being humiliated, ridiculed or shamed.

The second study involved 50 participants who reported such abuse on a standard written test and interviews, and 50 who did not.

'Conscientious children live longer as adults'

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Children who were rated as more conscientious than others in the 1920s have been living longer as adults, providing new evidence of a link between psychology and physical health, a study says.

The work found that since age 20, people who scored low on a childhood measure of conscientiousness have run a 30 per cent higher chance of dying each year than people who scored high.

The effect is not concentrated in any particular cause of death, but it is stronger in men, researchers Howard Friedman said.

The study tracked the longevity of 1,224 men and women through 1986, by which time about half had died, he said. It was paid for

by the government's National Institute on Aging.

Dr. Friedman is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Riverside and clinical professor of community medicine at the University of California, San Diego. He presented the work at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

In an interview, Prof. Friedman said researchers are now trying to figure out the explanation for the longevity difference. The reason for the greater impact on men is also a mystery, he said.

He acknowledged that the longevity difference could be due to better health habits in conscientious people, and said data on smoking, drinking and obesity among the study subjects had not been analyzed.

The participants were originally part of a study of the fate of gifted children, a project started by researcher Lewis Terman in 1921. Most were born around 1910, and their personality characteristics were rated by parents and teachers when they were around age 11, Prof. Friedman said.

For the new study, researchers combined the childhood ratings of prudence, conscientiousness, freedom from vanity and truthfulness into their own measure of

conscientiousness. They also used childhood rankings of sociability, cheerfulness and energy level.

Apart from conscientiousness, cheerfulness was the only personality trait to show any apparent bearing on longevity. Unexpectedly, greater childhood cheerfulness was linked to shorter lives, although its impact was less than that of conscientiousness in the other direction.

Prof. Friedman said the meaning of the cheerfulness finding is not clear.

People who had scored lower than the 25th percentile in childhood showed an even greater increase in adult mortality, Prof. Friedman said.

Prof. Friedman acknowledged that the unusually bright and mostly white participants did not make up a sample representative of the general population. But because all had access to health care and were not poor, the sample eliminated any longevity differences due to those factors, he said.

The study was co-authored by Joseph Schwartz of the State University of New York at Stony Brook; Joan Tucker and Carol Tomlinson Keasey of the University of California, Riverside; and Deborah Wingard and Michael Criqui of the University of California, San Diego.

A strange silence about the dangers of noise

By Eckart Klaus

BAVARIAN Labour Minister Gebhard Gluck had to shout to make himself understood at the Munich brewery where the latest bottling plant, designed to handle 50,000 bottles an hour, was being demonstrated. The May 1991 demonstration was aimed at showing how efficiently bottles were washed, labelled and filled and at impressing on a group of journalists the noise of work constantly accompanied by the ear-splitting clatter of 50,000 bottles of beer on the move.

The brewery workers were exposed to a constant noise level of 85 decibels, a level which is likely to damage their hearing in the long term. Ear plugs offer some protection, but only if they are worn. People in many noisy jobs just don't bother. You often see construction workers handling pneumatic drills or vibrators that tamp or flatten soil or road surfaces — and not wearing sound-proofed hard hats or ear

plugs. The result is about 3,000 workers a year become totally or partly deaf.

Hardness of hearing caused by noise ranks alongside skin diseases as the commonest cause of industrial disability. It has also emerged as the biggest stress factor in leisure activities. Last year, industrial injury insurance schemes in western Germany were notified of 9,494 cases of suspected deafness due to noise at work, 3,093 cases were acknowledged and 1,065 cases were indemnified for the first time.

In a brochure issued by the

Federal Environment Ministry has an alarming figure at the ready where the cost is concerned. The annual cost of health problems caused by the Big D (for decibel) is estimated at a staggering DM24bn. The daily terror of noise exposure, as it is perceived to be by its victims, is caused by low-flying aircraft and heavy goods juggernauts, pneumatic drills and electric lawnmowers, bars and discotheques, department stores and station precincts, building sites and nocturnal garden parties.

The causes of this daily terror are varied and ever-present, but do not make headline news. The media are surprisingly quiet about the issue.

The figures tell the story. Aircraft noise has increased thirtyfold in the past 15 years. The public debate about Munich's new airport and the high decibel counts in air corridors (approach routes that aren't officially admitted to exist) are a further indication of how serious the problem is.

Experts expect noise levels to double in the next few years. Noise affects not just hearing but mind and soul as well. It gets on people's nerves, making them physically and mentally ill. The most frequent noise-related complaints are circulatory disorders, nervousness, high blood pressure and insomnia.

Yet Bundeswehr Colonel Christian Meyer-Plath brazenly dismisses complaints as hysteria. Speaking at a meeting in Heidenheim, Franconia, he said people who complained of noise caused by low-flying aircraft in test areas were hysterical. "Some people are virtually waiting for the next bout of noise in order to be able to suffer again," he said.

Yet there is usually no way of escaping from noise, indoors or outdoors, at work or in the home, in the week or on weekends. "Isn't it quiet here!" is about the highest praise that can be given on first visiting a new home (one's own or someone else's).

One German in five spends an average 3.4 hours a day exposed to noise above the discomfort level. This term, a euphemism if ever there was one, was coined by Dr. Dieter Ellinghaus of the Col-

ogne-based Society for Applied Social Research and Planning.

Another finding by the Institute of Demoscopy, Allensbach, may be equally true. Twenty-seven per cent of 2,180 people questioned in 1990 said they felt noise levels were "sometimes" to "always" too high. Ten years earlier the figure had been 35 per cent. But 27 per cent still adds up to millions of Germans whose hearing must suffer from decibel exposure.

Noise isn't just measured, of course; noise abatement is a serious concern, as well it might be.

In 1910, the year he died, Robert Koch, the man who isolated the TB bacillus, said: "Man will one day fight noise as inexorably as he has fought cholera and the plague."

There is an abundance of rules and standards, laws and statutory requirements on noise abatement. Fines can be imposed on airlines if aircraft noise is found to exceed statutory levels.

Noise reduction at source is even more important. New processes promise more effective protection. They include "whispering" low-noise asphalt and double glazing that absorbs up to 50 decibels of noise. Other high-tech techniques are:

— New bus and heavy goods vehicle engines that make only half the noise level permitted by European Community regulations. Noise reduction is a result of fully encapsulated engines and gearboxes, new air intake and exhaust systems and lower rev counts.

— Low-lying railway lines (reduced by about a third in height to 110mm), disc rather than block brakes, shock absorbers, track sections that are smooth and fully welded, track laid in ballast (even on bridges), vegetation and noise abatement walls.

— Quieter construction machinery and lawnmowers (they are awarded the environmental "angel" logo for noise levels 10 per cent below the average).

— Noise abatement facades specially designed for airports and consisting of wire netting on which creepers have been trained to grow, netting that doesn't reflect radar signals, which used to be a serious air safety control problem. One such innovative design is the GigaRam FAR-S system, designed and built by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) and in use at Munich II and Bremen airports.

— New, low-noise take-off and landing techniques, such as Lufthansa's steep take-off procedure, which roughly halves the aircraft noise caused within a radius of 10km from the airport.

— New headphones that electronically offset background noise without eliminating noise that is considered useful and essential.

Whatever benefits these developments may bring, realistic noise measurement remains a serious problem. The noise levels we consider pleasant or unpleasant are an extremely subjective matter. Concepts and techniques are so refined that they can easily lead to misunderstandings. Who is to know what median and assessment levels are, what intensity and pressure decibels or relative sound pressure mean and what a sone is?

The sone is a very useful unit. It is measured in prop-

ortion to the noise level perceived, but it has yet to gain general acceptance. Noise research scientist Gerald Fleischer takes a dim view of the much-vaunted decibel, a unit named after Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone pioneer. He describes it as "a legally unclear unit, a psychological straitjacket. The decibel has nothing to do with noise and acoustics. It isn't a unit of measurement at all. It has more in common with a percentage, except that it is measured on a logarithmic scale."

Noise creators are staunch supporters of the ubiquitous decibel. It minimizes noise levels and tends to make them appear harmless. A whisper is 40 decibels, the sound of the sea and the waves 60 or 70 decibels, noise in a factory workshop 80 to 90 decibels and low-flying aircraft 120 decibels.

There doesn't seem to be too much difference between them, but the noise of a low-flying aircraft is clearly more than twice the level of the sea and more than three times that of someone whispering. Every ten-decibel increase doubles the noise level!

But the figures as they stand have made a political difference. The decibel count, Fleischer says, has deterred environmental campaigners. "They have so far capitulated abysmally to the most obvious instance of environmental pollution: ever-present noise. The decibel and other facets of this mysterious formula cult have clearly put them off."

Despite the abundance of rules and regulations, Germany still lacks statutory noise provisions that relate to the sense of hearing. How, in these circumstances, can we possibly hope to win the fight against noise levels that make people ill? — Rüdiger Moch.

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) — LEXICON: A dictionary, especially of an ancient language. DICTIONARY: A book that gives a list of words in alphabetical order with their pronunciations and meanings. ENCYCLOPEDIA: A book or set of books dealing with every branch of knowledge, or with one particular branch, in alphabetical order. GLOSSARY: A list of explanations of words, especially unusual ones at the end of a book. VOCABULARY: All the words known to a particular kind of work, business, etc.
- 2) No, a dicycle is a machine differing from a bicycle in that the two wheels, between which the rider balances himself, are parallel instead of being placed one in front of the other. Invented by E.C.F. Otto about 1879, it met with little success.
- 3) Rudolf Diesel (1858-1913).
- 4) They are found respectively in India, South Africa, Syria, and France.
- 5) The Guardian: established Jan. 21, 1846 by Frederick Rogers, R.W. Church and J.B. Mozley. The Daily Telegraph (and Courier): founded June 29, 1855 by Col. Sleight. The Financial Times: founded in 1888 by G.D. Macrae and F.M. Bridgewater. The Daily Mail: founded by Alfred Charles, William Hamsworth, the first issue appeared on Monday, May 4, 1896.

PUZZLE ME

A) MAGIC SQUARES:

9	5	4	7	8	3
1	6	11	2	6	10
8	7	3	9	4	5

B) FISHING:

1. TROUT
2. BARBEL
3. SKATE
4. SARDINES
5. MULLET
6. TENCH

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Wednesday they must prove their loyalty by taking up arms against Saddam in the area patrolled by Western aircraft.

Abdullah Mohsen, in the first call by the Iraqi leadership to arm the tribesmen, said they should be ready to "uproot the vicious heads" of what Baghdad has described as "Iran-backed, criminals, army deserters and infiltrators."

But, he said, were plenty, and what the tribesmen needed was to "clean their weapons... to defeat the foreigner and liquidate the agents."

Tribal leaders, who had a low profile before the Gulf war, have now thrust into the limelight by the Iraqi government. It is banking on their support to head off a repetition of disturbances that rocked the south after the war.

In the Gulf war aftermath, southern tribal chieftains poured into the presidential palace to apologise to President Saddam for failing to take tough action against the short-lived Shiite rebellion in the area.

In Baghdad, a senior U.N. inspector said Wednesday allied bombing during the Gulf war and the subsequent activities of U.N. weapons inspection teams have rendered harmless Iraq's nuclear programme.

"It (the programme) stands at zero now," Maurizio Zifferero, leader of the latest nuclear inspection team to visit Iraq, told reporters at the end of his second day in the field.

Iraq has been denied trying to develop nuclear weapons but admitted carrying out nuclear arms-related research.

"We're completing our investigation of (the nuclear) programme and find no evidence of the programme being continued," said Mr. Zifferero.

Iraq's nuclear sites were the target of massive air raids by the U.S.-led coalition during the 1991 Gulf war.

Saudi ties

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian officials hoped to solve the problem.

Riyadh says laboratory tests show the vegetables have an unacceptably high level of contamination. Jordan maintains that the produce is clean.

"I don't think that this (ban) has any political element," Mr. Sharif said.

Riyadh barred Jordanian trucks from entering Saudi territory after the Gulf crisis last year in retaliation for Amman's sympathy with Iraq.

Water

(Continued from page 1)

Many citizens are undertaking extra expense of buying water tanks from private distributors.

In July, Mu'az Bebeisi, director general of WAJ, said that the authority does not get paid for 54 per cent of the water it pumps into its network - 30 per cent of it is lost to leakage and other problems and 24 per cent is lost due to illegal practices by citizens and problems with consumption.

Among those illegal practices, he official said, was the use of municipal water for construction or irrigation. "For those purposes the law requires them to use special wells or buy water tanks," he said.

Mr. Kassar told the Al Rai Arabic daily Tuesday that the loan would be allocated to maintenance projects on the water network in Amman and other main cities to minimise leakage.

The Cabinet authorised WAJ to find creditors who would extend a soft loan payable over a ten-year period, with exemption of interest payment for the first four years and then repayment at an interest of nine per cent over the remaining six years.

Citizens in the capital have been complaining of the rationing schedule, which is adopted every summer in the Kingdom, to the different districts and accuse WAJ of not sticking to its declared policy of distributing water on the days allocated to those districts.

Several citizens told the Jordan Times that they had not received municipal water in two weeks and that their complaints to the authorities had gone unheeded.

Mr. Bebeisi announced two months ago that Jordanians would be getting less water per day than the internationally set standards. He said every Jordanian citizen would be getting 188 litres of water per day while international standards set the minimum acceptable volume at 200 litres.

Severe water shortages in Jordan, which mainly depend on rainfall for its water supplies, had forced the country to tap its non-renewable underground resources which, together with renewable resources, account for 80 per cent of drinking water in the Kingdom.

According to a study on Jordan's water situation, published in the Jordan Times last year, Jordan's domestic water consumption reached 175 million cubic metres (mcm) or 24 per cent of the total water consumption in 1990. With an average population growth rate of 3.6 per cent, the water consumption was predicted to increase to 300 mcm by the year 2005 when the population reaches 5.46 million.

Jordan urges NAM to seek freedom

(Continued from page 1)

cultural pluralism while suffering from economic retrenchment.

"These disparities should be an incentive for us to work for greater complementarity among our member states, enabling us to have an impact on the economies of the North."

"Our analysis of the world situation and of the lessons of past experience leads to the clear imperative that we persist in moving forward as partners in moulding a new world on the basis of freedom, justice and human dignity," the King said.

The King called for arriving at a new concept for the NAM with emphasis on "its historical constants" as well as "facing up to recent changes and drawing up plans and policies to resolve economic, fiscal and developmental problems."

"If we do this, we will have taken the first steps towards laying down a sound basis for a new world where knowledge, culture, economics and development take precedence over narrow considerations of politics, security and consumerism," he said.

"For all these considerations, Jordan recognises the importance of setting up a special commission of wise men to look into challenges common to us all and to put forward the basis for dealing with these challenges. In this

respect, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hassan Ben Talal, the Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has called for a meeting of a number of leading personalities to discuss a comprehensive agenda of pertinent issues that would guarantee regional cooperation in the inter and intra-regional levels."

The King also touched upon the role of the U.N. in the new world order and emphasised the need to restructuring the world body, with particular emphasis on the Security Council "to ensure greater balance and more equitable representation for those falling outside the international decision-making framework."

The King also stressed the need for disarmament, "world peace and security is not going to be enhanced by the practice of specific countries which are forced to themselves while their neighbours enjoy nuclear monopoly as well as spiralling arms race taking place regionally," he said.

The King reaffirmed Jordan's belief in allowing the people to make their decisions and reiterated that the Kingdom would continue on its march towards democratisation and to "make this experiment a model of popular participation, freedom of thought and expression, and political pluralism."

Views conflict over deputies' detention

(Continued from page 1)

political motives were behind the detention of the deputy, although his lawyer, Ibrahim Bakr, doubts it. Supporters of this school of thought see it as a crackdown on democratic freedoms, and warn that such measures could endanger the democratic process in the Kingdom.

They insist that his detention was connected to his insistence on pursuing "corruption" cases.

Mr. Shbeilat has had a reputation for what his supporters see as his "courageous positions" against not only the establishment's policies since he became a Lower House deputy after 1984 by-elections and again when he won an Amman seat with the highest votes in the Third District in 1989 but also against the Brotherhood.

The maverick deputy had criticised the Brotherhood for what he viewed as its "weak" support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, for its ideological limitations on democratic and personal freedoms and for its lenient opposition to the consecutive governments.

But his greatest supporters have also been angered by his advocacy for greater democratic freedoms through his role in the House's public freedoms committee.

Mr. Shbeilat, who heads the Investigations Committee in the House, was an active participant and advocate of debating the issue of alleged corruption against former officials last month in Parliament.

Mr. Shbeilat's public statements to "continue to bring to account all former officials involved in corruption cases," his consistent opposition to the Middle East peace process, and his general anti-establishment stance are seen by his supporters as elements

behind his detention.

But other analysts believe that the State Security prosecution could not have detained Mr. Shbeilat unless it had sufficient evidence that he was involved with the Al Nafeer group, whether intentionally or unintentionally. According to security sources, the prosecution was "very hesitant to detain Mr. Shbeilat, but had to do so for legal purposes based on the evidence."

Mr. Shbeilat boycotted Parliament for a few weeks late last year after he was personally threatened by youths attending the vote-of-confidence session for Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government when he withheld his vote. The youth had stood on chairs allocated for the public and chanted pro-regime slogans. When Mr. Shbeilat shouted at them that "all of us love King Hussein." Following that session, the deputy also said that he had received phone calls threatening his life. Mr. Shbeilat did not return to Parliament until he was strongly urged by Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat to do so after receiving assurances for his personal safety.

Although observers and analysts are cautious not to express support for Sheikh Qarash pending the outcome of the investigation on whether he is in fact heading a group planning to use violence against the state, they believe Mr. Shbeilat's detention was a message to the people that if people overstepped certain limits in opposing the establishment, democratic freedoms could be curbed.

"Such an act by the state only strengthens the point of view of a sceptic minority that doubts the genuineness of the democratic process in the Kingdom," one observer said.

Self-rule plan

(Continued from page 1)

3- The jurisdiction of the Palestinian interim self-government: authority (jurisdiction in terms of land, economic activities, freedom of movement, etc.).

4- Withdrawal of the Israeli military government and forces; the military authorities under civil administration should be dissolved and the army should withdraw to mutually agreed upon security locations.

5- The issue of Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories.

6- Israeli settlements, according to the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

7- Displaced persons and expelled Palestinians and their return.

8- Questions of security and security arrangements.

9- Supervision and dispute resolution (an international body -

a standing committee to supervise the transitional phase).

10- A recommended time frame.

Dr. Ashrawi pointed out that the Palestinian side adheres to the time frame as presented by the co-sponsors and is willing to consider the next phase of negotiations to begin at the end of October and run for three years, plus three extra months.

Asked to describe the Israeli reaction to the Palestinian proposed agenda, Dr. Ashrawi acknowledged that the Israelis noted that this was an agenda "that attempted to put both sides together" and that there was a more positive tone, it was very encouraging, and their concerns were taken into consideration.

She pointed out that this was their initial reaction as they did not have time to study it thoroughly on the spot, adding that they said there are areas that they could not absolutely accept and areas that they could modify.

Islamic groups face 'real test'

(Continued from page 1)

was the executive authority's manipulation of the Constitution, believe that the Third District deputy is being "framed" in an effort to silence him and stop his investigations into corruption cases.

Mr. Shbeilat heads the Lower House committee in charge of investigating corruption. However, his critics, Ibrahim Bakr, doubts any political motives are behind the arrest.

"It is not only a question of Al Nafeer, Qarash or Shbeilat," a political observer said. "People will not tolerate paramilitary organisations which at any time can bring out their guns to back their political positions as they did in Algeria or Egypt."

Last year scores of Islamists were arrested, tried and sentenced - eight to life imprisonment - for their involvement in "Mohammad's Army" and terrorist activities inside the Kingdom.

The arrest of Mamdouh Mbeisen, a member of the Zarqa municipal council and a Muslim Brotherhood follower, for illegal possession of weapons will also cast doubt on Islamists' means of political activity, observers say.

"People are realising that the Lebanon style of democracy and the Afghanistan-type revolution are simply unacceptable in Jordan," said Minister of Labour and Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti. "People will not allow the dialogue of words to be replaced with the dialogue of bullets."

The arrest of the two deputies, both affiliated with a spiritual Sufi group known as "Dar Al Quran," coincided with the enactment of the political parties law. According to analysts, the arrest is a signal that the government will not tolerate violence as a means to express dissent or the existence of underground organisations.

Some analysts asserted that the latest case may cast doubt on Islamic Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat's faith in the process.

"Islamic movements are the source of strength and one of the leading forces behind the democratic process," said Dr. Arabiyat himself a member of the Brotherhood.

He pointed out that the Brotherhood bloc in Parliament fully supported the political parties law, a cornerstone of democracy, and "worked hard to get it quickly ratified."

"We reject any armed movement, whether Islamic or non-Islamic. The security and stability of this country is what we strive to protect," Dr. Arabiyat said. "Wrongdoers should be prosecuted."

In the end, analysts say, public perceptions of the motives of the defendants and the authority will be just as important or even more so than the facts in the case in determining popular support for Islamist groups in the country.

Talks mired

(Continued from page 1)

some issues are too sensitive for it to be included on the agenda - especially since most of the central issues seem to be sensitive to Israel. We cannot accept to come up with an agenda that deals only with the marginal issues," he said.

Examples of the central issues in the negotiations include U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, settlements, and refugees. The Israeli side's excuse for wanting

to exclude these issues from the agenda is, he said, that these issues are too sensitive. "Why are we here in negotiations if we are to deal with issues that are not sensitive?" he asked. He pointed out that both the Israelis and the Arabs have a sceptical public with regards to the negotiations. "But coming to the negotiating table means that you are willing to face the issues head-on," he said.

He reiterated the importance of agreement on what is to be included in the agenda and what is to be excluded from it. "It is

absolutely important that an agenda sets the framework for all the issues that we need to talk about. By not including these issues on the agenda (it) means that they (the Israelis) are not interested in talking about them. And we cannot evade central issues forever... because we want to move things forward... on central issues," the spokesman said.

In response to a question about so-called "working groups at the expert level," Dr. Muasher explained that there are "informal discussions" being held.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Issue No. 16

Drawing of Sept. 2, 1992

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 64683 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 64684 64693 64783 65683 74683 64682 64673 64583 63683 64683
Holder of ticket No. 41386 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 41387 41396 41486 42386 51386 41385 41376 41286 40386 31386
Holder of ticket No. 00031 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 00032 00041 00131 01031 10031 00030 00021 00931 09031 90031
Holder of ticket No. 47995 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each wins JD 25 47996 47905 47095 48995 57995 47994 47985 47895 46995 37995
Holder of ticket No. 67573 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 67574 67583 67673 68573 77573 67572 67563 67473 66573 57573
Holder of ticket No. 55465 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 120 each wins JD 12 55466 55475 55565 56465 65465 55464 55455 55365 54465 45465
Holder of ticket No. 70661 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 70662 70671 70761 71661 80661 70660 70651 70561 79661 60661
Holder of ticket No. 17178 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 17179 17188 17278 18178 27178 17177 17168 17078 16178 07178

Ticket numbers	12222 39213 18266 66213	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	95263 55078 95574	Win JD 100 each










TICKETS ENDING WITH

0615 6555 3465	Win JD 50 each	0268 6867 7577	Win JD 20 each
8511 7774 9369	Win JD 10 each	4564 3118	
6871 9056	Win JD 10 each	287 618 542 968	Win JD 5 each
45	Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with 7	Win JD 2 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

58 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in	336 022 067 703 235	Win JD 10
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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 15 of August 17, 1992

								
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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound*	2.0020	2.0026
Deutsche Mark	1.3900	1.3905
Swiss Franc	1.2365	1.2363
French Franc	4.7385	4.7430**
Japanese Yen	122.66	122.63
European Currency Unit	1.4535	1.4532**

Interbank Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.37	3.50	3.62
Sterling Pound	9.87	10.37	10.62	10.68
Deutsche Mark	9.81	9.81	9.81	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.62	7.62	7.62
French Franc	10.25	10.46	10.56	10.62
Japanese Yen	4.21	3.87	3.81	3.81
European Currency Unit	11.12	11.18	11.18	11.18

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6620	0.6640
Sterling Pound	1.3260	1.3276
Deutsche Mark	0.4757	0.4781
Swiss Franc	0.3363	0.3391
French Franc	0.1395	0.1402
Japanese Yen*	0.5395	0.5422
Dutch Guilder	0.4221	0.4242
Swedish Krona	0.1300	0.1307
Italian Lira*	0.0622	0.0625
Belgian Franc	0.0232	0.0234

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7270	1.7300
Lebanese Lira*	0.0255	0.0276
Saudi Riyal	0.1761	0.1779
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2310
Qatari Riyal	0.1794	0.1806
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.6910	1.7050
UAE Dirham	0.1794	0.1806
Greek Drachma*	0.3700	0.3830
Cypriot Pound	1.6250	1.6330

Index

Index	31.8.1992 Close	1.9.1992 Close
All-Share	141.57	141.75
Banking Sector	104.89	104.84
Insurance Sector	147.70	147.58
Industry Sector	191.36	191.92
Services Sector	190.89	191.81

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	Deutsche marks	Dutch Guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
One Sterling	2.0060/70	1.1951/56	1.3885/90	1.5685/95	1.2371/77	28.67/71	4.7400/50	1064/1065	122.80/85	5.0765/0815	5.4980/30	5.3775/25
One U.S. dollar												

One ounce of gold

U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	Deutsche marks	Dutch Guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
\$340.30/340.70											

Nigeria aims at increasing oil reserves

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has set a recoverable crude oil reserve target of 25 billion barrels by 1995 after achieving its original 20 billion-barrel goal two years early, state radio has reported.

Imo Itseki, chairman of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), was quoted by the radio as saying the new goal would be realistic with the allocation of fresh exploration acreage as well as fiscal and other incentives.

Foreign industry sources were divided over the new target, with some saying it was unlikely to be met because of general budget constraints and a lack of major action in deepwater areas off the oil-rich Niger Delta and elsewhere.

"The target does not appear reasonable to us. Unless we go to other areas, we are not likely to find that order of reserves in the Niger Delta area," a senior industry source told Reuters.

But other sources said they believed there were considerable amounts of reserves still to be tapped in the swampy Niger Delta area.

Nigeria, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), three years ago set targets of 20 billion barrels in reserves and an output capacity of 2.5 million barrels per day (b/d) by 1995.

The sources also cast doubt on the 2.5 million b/d goal, saying most ventures were currently producing at near capacity.

"Capacity can be pushed now to two million b/d but the problem is sustaining it because of the need for ongoing maintenance," one source said.

The sources said the output target given by NNPC to joint venture partners for August totalled 1.98 million b/d, rising to 1.99 million in September.

July's target was 1.96 million. A Reuters survey showed that Nigeria produced an average of 1.87 million b/d that month.

Monthly target figures include up to 100,000 b/d equivalent of condensate, a light hydrocarbon at the high quality end of petroleum which Nigeria says falls outside the definition of crude oil governed by OPEC output quotas.

Nigeria's present quota is 1.751 million b/d.

Mr. Itseki gave no details of new exploration acreages or incentives in Nigeria, which relies on oil sales for more than 90 per cent of official foreign currency earnings, partly to help repay foreign debts totalling some \$38 billion.

There have been no reports of big finds in the northeastern Lake Chad area, which NNPC has been exploiting for some time.

Another offshore area is the eastern Benue basin, in which NNPC and several foreign companies, including affiliates of Chevron Corporation of the United States and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, have shown interest.

Batelco to invest \$31m for expansion

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) said it is investing \$31 million on expansion projects during 1992 and 1993.

Chairman Ibrahim Mohammed Hassan Humaidan said in a statement that Batelco had allocated 7.5 million dinars (\$20 million) to enhance and expand mobile telephone services.

The company was also awarding a 2.5 million dinars (\$6.75 million) contract to Japan's NEC to supply and install a digital exchange for the international telephone service, he said.

Batelco has also allocated 1.3 million dinars (\$3.5 million) to upgrade the local telephone network.

The Bahrain government owns 39 per cent of Batelco, Cable and Wireless Company of Britain holds 20 per cent and the remainder is owned by Bahraini investors and financial institutions.

Mr. Humaidan, who is also Bahrain's transport minister, recently signed a 1.7 million dinar (\$4.5 million) contract with two Japanese firms to provide and install new equipment to upgrade its ship-to-shore coastal station.

The statement identified the two firms as Marubeni Corporation and Japan Radio Corporation. It gave no further details.

When completed in 1993, it will provide telephone, telefax and telegram services to ships on medium, high and very high frequencies.

"This series of projects is part of the company's continuing plans to enhance and develop the telecommunications services to maintain the high standards of telecommunications for which Bahrain has been renowned for many years," Mr. Humaidan said.

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Traders see no respite for the ailing dollar

LONDON (R) — The once mighty dollar, now the walking wounded of the financial markets, traded around all-time lows Wednesday and dealers saw little chance of respite for the currency.

The dollar was quoted at 1.3915 marks at 1000 GMT, unchanged from its London close on Tuesday and just above its overnight low of 1.3865 marks seen in the Far East. It was at 122.88 yen, little changed from Tuesday's close of 122.85.

"Obviously the dollar is under a lot of pressure," said Juan Corbella at Citibank.

Traders said the dollar would probably drop further until there was either a clear upturn in the U.S. economy or a reduction in German interest rates. The dollar could also get a lift in U.S. President George Bush were suddenly to surge higher in opinion polls.

"A reduction in German interest rates is very hard to see at this moment," said Alex Blinkhorn, chief trader at Bank of Tokyo.

"The Bundesbank doesn't want to strangle the economy, but they have no room to manoeuvre because of price developments." The rate of inflation was 3.5 per cent in August, nearly twice the level of the Bundesbank's medium term goal.

In the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM), the lira and the pound sterling languished close to their official floors.

The lira was quoted at 764.90 per mark, a whisker away from its ERM 765.40 floor. The pound was at 2.7883 marks, a pipsy above its 2.7780 floor in the EC currency grid.

If France rejects the treaty, tensions will intensify and there could be a realignment of EMS currency parities, the dealers said.

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Controversial polls hurt Lebanon's weak economy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's controversial polls will deal a blow to the country's collapsing economy by discouraging investment and foreign aid, senior economists said Wednesday.

The elections, the first in 20 years, have again caused Lebanon to be divided between Christians, who boycotted the polls, and Muslims, who voted.

With the lira continuing to slide and inflation soaring some analysts are expecting a public mutiny against the government.

Christian opposition groups, including their most influential religious leader Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Stair, said they would consider the parliament to be formed after the last phase of polls next Sunday to be illegal.

"The present political crisis will for sure harm the country's economy," Edmund Naem, former president of Lebanon's central bank, told Reuters.

"The disagreement on the legitimacy of the new parliament will discourage foreign and domestic investment as well as possible foreign aid needed to rebuild the country," he added. "The image of the country in the world will be distorted."

Lebanon has unsuccessfully been pleading for economic help from Western and oil-rich countries to rebuild its demolished infrastructure and save its economy, once one of the strongest in the Middle East, from total collapse.

Unofficial estimates put the losses caused by the 1975-90 civil war at more than \$15 billion.

Mr. Naem said the election crisis, the worst in two years, would further weaken the Lebanese lira which lost more than 99 per cent of its international value during the civil war. The war left some 100,000 people dead.

Leading economist Marwan Iskandar said despite a government decision last month to support the lira, the central bank could not stop the fall of the currency.

"The central bank has now some \$570 million of foreign currency reserves and the minimum amount of reserves allowed by the International Monetary Fund is \$500 million," Mr. Iskandar told Reuters.

"So the central bank can use about \$70 million to support the lira and this is not enough at all for a long-term plan to buoy the currency," he pointed out.

Bank of Lebanon managed to curb a sharp decrease in the dollar price of the lira a few days before the first round of polls started on Aug. 23 when it boosted its value from some 2,800 against the U.S. currency to 2,400.

But the lira began sliding again when the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh insisted on holding the polls despite escalating Christian opposition.

The central bank held the lira at a rate of 2,400 to 2,520 to the dollar over the past week but on the black market the price was more than 2,600 liras to the dollar.

Mr. Iskandar said the shape of the new government that is expected to be formed after the elections would have a major influence on the state of the economy.

"If the government was formed of knowledgeable members whom the people trust, then there will be better hopes that the deterioration will slow down," he said. "A good new government can rally for foreign aid."

Mr. Iskandar predicted that the economy will witness a new crisis by the end of September that would exceed the election crisis in its negative impact on the Lebanese.

"By the end of September we will see what could be like a public mutiny because inflation will reach about 100 per cent and many Lebanese will stop paying their financial obligations as their incomes are decreasing in purchasing power," he said.

Third World states seek common strategy on debt

JAKARTA (R) — Third World countries are struggling at the non-aligned summit to find a common strategy to get the industrialised nations to lift their crushing debt burden.

"I don't think we can find a solution... it is very difficult," senior Indonesian Economics Minister Radius Prawiro told reporters when asked whether the movement's different regions would agree on a common strategy on external debt.

Developing countries' foreign debt is estimated to total more than \$1.3 trillion.

Delegates to the economic discussions at the summit, which started Tuesday, said difficulties arose because creditors to Latin America were mainly commercial banks while those to Asia were international financial institutions. Africa was sinking under a mix of both.

They said the Latin Americans pursued separate deals to solve their main commercial debts, the better-off Asian countries waited their levels of concessional aid from the international financial institutions to be enhanced and the Africans wanted write-offs.

Mr. Radius said Indonesia, whose foreign debt is more than \$70 billion, suggested setting up a high level inter-governmental forum to help countries negotiate terms with creditors on their debt.

"The differences have become more difficult to resolve because of widespread resentment in the Third World over the substantial loan write-offs by commercial banks to Mexico and Brazil and by creditor clubs to Egypt and Poland last year."

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AMMAN - SHMEISANI

U.N. HQ in Sarajevo comes under heavy fire

SARAJEVO (R) — The headquarters of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo came under heavy artillery attack Wednesday as shells exploded nearby at the rate of one a minute.

Journalists at the exposed UNPROFOR building said the barrage began shortly after midnight and lasted for 40 minutes.

The attack followed a mortar assault Tuesday on nearby Camp Beaver, where Egyptian peacekeeping troops are based. Five men were hurt, among them an Egyptian colonel and two French officers who were badly wounded.

Sarajevo was mostly calm overnight after heavy fighting between Muslims and Serbs Tuesday in which at least 15 people were killed. Journalists said one blazing building could be seen in the western part of the city but the cause was not known.

The centre of the city, which has experienced some of the heaviest shelling of the war during the last 10 days, was not touched.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cancelled plans to send an aid convoy to the Muslim town of Gorazde east of Sarajevo where Serbs have lifted a siege that lasted almost five months.

A UNHCR source said the trip was delayed for the second time because Bosnian forces could not guarantee the convoy's safety, and added:

"We are very upset to have to postpone the convoy again after loading all the trucks with food and medicine. But the collective judgement was that the risk was just too great."

In Belgrade, Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic appeared on television Tuesday evening to defend himself against a parliamentary vote of no-confidence tabled Monday by backers of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Supporters of Mr. Milosevic, with whom Mr. Panic is at loggerheads over the Yugoslav crisis, tabled the vote, accusing Mr. Panic of betraying Serbia's interests at London peace talks.

"The irony, the tragedy of it all is that Panic, who alone managed to avoid Serbia being put on trial, should himself be put on one by Serbs in Belgrade," said a close aide.

The move by 68 legislators of the Socialist and Radical Parties which control the federal parliament followed public rebukes to Mr. Milosevic from Mr. Panic at the London talks.

The West perceives the moderate Panic as a potential saviour for Serbia who could bring it back into the world community after its ostracism over the Bosnian independence crisis.

The parliamentary debate on the vote could take place as early as Friday, Western officials have warned his removal from power could derail the international peace process.

"There is little possibility that parliament will vote no confidence in Panic because it would be an outright suicidal move on their part," said the aide.

Supporters of the no-confidence motion say Mr. Panic went beyond his mandate in London and compromised the position of Serbs in now-independent Croatia and the Albanian-dominated region of Kosovo.

Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born American millionaire, pledged on television: "I will never relinquish an inch of Yugoslav territory."

Peace talks sponsored by the United Nations and the European Community are to resume in Geneva Thursday.

U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance told a news conference Monday that he hoped to galvanise the diplomatic machinery to bring peace to Bosnia.

But Mr. Vance, co-chairman of a new United Nations-European

Community steering group set up in London last week, said: "It's going to be hard going." He added that initial promises of a ceasefire had already been broken.

In Washington a group of six U.S. senators including the majority leader Tuesday urged the United States to break diplomatic relations with Serbia because of aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The senators, who returned last week from a trip to Croatia where they discussed the crisis with Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian officials, also called for international economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro to be tightened.

"The United States should sever diplomatic relations with Serbia. The sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro should be tightened drastically," the bi-partisan group headed by majority leader George Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, said in a letter to Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

"Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina continues unabated. While the current government of Serbia-Montenegro claims to have no influence over Serbian activities within Bosnia-Herzegovina, the continued calls for a 'greater Serbia' demonstrate a clear long-term intention of Serbian annexation."

"Serbia continues its aggression because, except for some harsh words and adverse economic effects, it has paid no meaningful price for aggression," the senators added.

In addition to Sen. Mitchell the other senators who made the trip and signed the letter were Democrats Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, James Sasser of Tennessee and Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, and Republicans Warren Rudman of New Hampshire and James Jeffords of Vermont.

Russia to propose peacekeeping role in Abkhazia

MOSCOW (R) — Russia is proposing to deploy peacekeeping troops in the west Georgian region of Abkhazia, where a separatist rebellion has taken an estimated 130 lives, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

It quoted Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgy Khizha as saying in a television interview that the question would be discussed at Thursday's scheduled meeting between President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

"Certain agreements have already been reached," he said. "The matter will be settled on Sept. 3."

Russia, which ruled Georgia for two centuries up to the breakup of the Soviet Union in December, still has troops based in Abkhazia and other parts of Georgia.

Georgia accused one Russian unit of killing several of its soldiers in a missile attack Tuesday. Russia, which says it takes a neutral position over the conflict, has denied it. But Mr. Shevardnadze said the incident could threaten Thursday's talks.

Russian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel-General Viktor Dvoryanin said in a newspaper interview Tuesday that a parachute regiment of the Gorynzh Division was in Abkhazia, protecting military installations.

"In principle that regiment, after essential reinforcement, could carry out peacekeeping duties," Dvoryanin told the daily Izvestia. "But for that a political decision must be taken."

Russia deployed peacekeeping troops in another separatist region of Georgia, south Ossetia, in July and has so far succeeded in stopping an increasingly bloody conflict there.

Mr. Shevardnadze's government sent troops into Abkhazia, a Black Sea province, three weeks ago after the local parliament effectively declared independence. Georgian officials say at least 130 people have been killed and 500 wounded.

Russia was quickly drawn into the conflict when hundreds of gunmen from its southern regions on the north side of the Caucasus flooded across the mountains to support the Abkhazian independ-



Georgian National Guard troops are seen withdrawing from the Georgian Interior Ministry building in Sukhumi, the capital of the rebel region of Abkhazia. They were replaced by police from the Georgian Interior Ministry.

ence bid.

Mr. Shevardnadze flew to Moscow Wednesday for Thursday's talks with Mr. Yeltsin. He is also due to meet Abkhazian separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba and other Caucasian representatives.

Meanwhile, a day-old ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan looked set to follow previous truces into oblivion as fighting flared anew on the southern edge of the former Soviet Union.

"Another ceasefire memorandum between Armenia and Azerbaijan has burst like a bubble," Commonwealth Television said Tuesday. Both sides accused the other of violating the truce, which came into effect at midnight.

In the Central Asian state of Tajikistan, which borders Afghanistan and China, the whereabouts of President Rakhmon Nabiyev was unknown after

armed opponents took control of his official residence Monday.

Protesters gathered outside the building, demanding the former Communist leader resign his post. Some officials taken hostage by the protesters were released Tuesday.

NEGA News Agency, linked to the liberal Nezavisimaya Gazeta paper, said Mr. Nabiyev appeared to have few supporters in the capital Dushanbe.

But this week's main hopes for peace in the former Soviet Union had centred on a new attempt to end the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan for control of Nagorno-Karabakh — a four-year conflict which has claimed over 2,000 lives.

The enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh is located within Azerbaijan and administered from the Azeri capital Baku. But the population

is Armenian and has its own administration in the regional capital Stepanakert.

Gagik Avakyan, an Armenian National Security Ministry official, said Azeri forces had shelled towns in and around Nagorno-Karabakh early Tuesday, disregarding the new truce.

Officials in Baku appeared sceptical about the prospects for the ceasefire. "This ceasefire is of no benefit to us at all. A ceasefire is not enough, we need a political settlement," Defence Ministry spokeswoman Leyla Yunusova said.

Interfax quoted a spokesman of Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey saying the ceasefire agreement applied to Azerbaijan's border with Armenia, not to Nagorno-Karabakh which he described as "Azerbaijan's internal affair."

Slovak parliament adopts new constitution

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Deputies in the Slovak regional parliament voted 114-16 late Tuesday to adopt a Slovak constitution, bringing Slovakia one step closer to independence.

The 14 ethnic Hungarian deputies representing the 600,000-strong minority in Slovakia walked out in protest before the vote. Two Christian Democratic deputies were also absent from the 150-seat legislature. There were four abstentions.

Czech and Slovak leaders last week agreed that the 74-year-old federation would split on Jan. 1, ending an increasingly bitter union aggravated by disputes over post-Communist reforms.

Results from general elections in June had made the break-up inevitable, and only a date and various parliamentary enactments are required to finalise it. The constitution adopted Tuesday represents the basic governing rules of the future independent state of Slovakia.

A new Czech constitution is expected to be passed later this year.

Slovak parliamentary and government officials Thursday will present the new constitution in a formal ceremony at the medieval Bratislava Castle.

Under last week's agreement between Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar and his Czech counterpart Vaclav Klaus, the federal parliament in September will pass legislation allowing dissolution of the federation into two states. Under the current Czechoslovak constitution, the only way to change the structure of the country is through a referendum.

Another crucial bill, defining the division of the federation's assets, is expected to be adopted by the federal parliament in October.

The two new states would then create a number of treaties governing their future economic, political and security relations.

"By the adoption of this constitution, the Slovak Republic has become a sovereign state," said Ivan Gasparovic, parliament president.

Ethnic Hungarian deputies had demanded in earlier debate on the proposed constitution more explicit guarantees of equality in the new Slovak nation.

After they walked out of parliament, Mr. Meciar said, "in Slovakia, everybody is equal in rights as well as obligations."

Slovakia makes up the country's eastern third. Its economy was dominated by the once-prosperous Czech weapons industry, but unemployment there has soared under Prague's sweeping economic reforms.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Polish premier, wife murdered

WARSAW (R) — Former Polish Communist Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz and his wife were found murdered in their luxurious home near Warsaw Wednesday, police said. Mr. Jaroszewicz, 82, who was ousted in a government reshuffle in 1980 after 10 years in office, and his wife Irena Soliska were found dead by their son Andrzej after midnight in their villa in the wealthy suburb in Anin. No motive was known. "It was quite macabre. The perpetrator acted with premeditation — meaning he wanted to kill them," said police spokesman Jerzy Kirzynski. "The motive is not known and we do not yet know if anything was stolen," he said.

Greek refinery blast toll rises to 3

ATHENS (R) — The death toll from Tuesday's oil refinery explosion near Athens rose to three Wednesday when two more workers died from burns, hospital officials said. One man was killed instantly in the powerful blast at the Petrolia Hellas Refinery at Elefsina, west of Athens. More than 30 workers were injured. Fifteen of them are still in critical condition and some might not survive, the officials said. All suffered severe burns from a fire which followed the blast.

Yeltsin to sign pact with India

NEW DELHI (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit India in January to sign a new treaty of friendship, Indian and Russian officials said Wednesday. An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters that Mr. Yeltsin was scheduled to visit India for a first meeting with Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao some time in the first three weeks of January. A Russian embassy spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin would sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation with India "approximately on the same pattern as the earlier treaty between Moscow and New Delhi." India and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation in 1971 at a time when New Delhi perceived a military threat from the United States.

'KGB launched plot to kill Yeltsin'

MOSCOW (AP) — The KGB hatched an unsuccessful plot to kill Boris Yeltsin while he was on a trip to Tajikistan as then-chairman of the Soviet Construction Industry, the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper reported. According to the report, former KGB head Vladimir Kryuchkov, who is now in jail awaiting trial for his alleged role in the August 1991 coup attempt, ordered the head of the Central Asian nation's KGB to have Mr. Yeltsin killed. Mr. Kryuchkov was a senior KGB official at the time of the alleged attempt on Mr. Yeltsin's life. The murder was supposed to have taken place when Mr. Yeltsin was visiting Tajikistan's Sangtundinskaya Hydropower Station, which he was inspecting in his capacity as Soviet construction chief. Citing the IMA-Press Agency, Komsomolskaya Pravda said the attack was progressing as planned, but that at the last minute shots were not fired and Mr. Yeltsin returned safely to Moscow. The newspaper did not say when the alleged attack took place. The KGB officer who refused to carry out the order to kill Mr. Yeltsin was put behind bars where he remains to this day, Komsomolskaya Pravda said.

27 die in Nicaraguan earthquake

MANAGUA (R) — A powerful earthquake off Nicaragua's Pacific coast triggered a series of tidal waves that killed at least 27 people and injured hundreds more, government officials said Wednesday. They said an unknown number of people were unaccounted for after the Tuesday evening quake which U.S. geologists said registered 7.0 on the Richter Scale. At least five lighter aftershocks shook the region later Tuesday. The pro-Sandinista Radio Ya quoted sources as saying they expected to find more dead as dawn broke and Mexican television reported at least 30 dead.

Twins joined at midsection separated

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP) — Sara and Page Johnson, twins born joined at the abdomen, are in excellent condition after the six-hour operation that separated them last week, doctors said. Doctors at St. Mary's Hospital said they were more concerned about the twins' psychological health than their physical health. "These babies had three months of bonding. It's a jolt to their psyches to suddenly be separate," said pediatric surgeon John Wesley, who led two teams of surgeons.

Time is not right to give islands to Japan — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday the time was politically unsuitable to hand over four disputed islands of Japan, news photographers said.

He made the remarks to some 20 photographers and television cameramen recording a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, in advance of Mr. Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo this month.

While waiting for Mr. Watanabe to arrive, Mr. Yeltsin asked the photographers whether he should "give away" the islands. Some replied yes, others no.

"You see, opinions differ," Mr. Yeltsin said decisively. "Politically it is not the time for Russia to do this now."

The dispute over a group of islands off northern Japan, seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II, has poisoned relations for decades and blocked large-scale Japanese aid and investment in Russia.

Recovery of what Tokyo calls its Northern Territories has become a highly emotional issue in Japan, uniting people across the political spectrum.

Mr. Yeltsin has been under increasing pressure from nationalists and conservatives at home not to yield an inch of "Russian soil" to Japan. Any deal with Tokyo expose him to attack from the nationalist flank.

The former Soviet Union declared war on Japan after the Hiroshima atom bomb and seized the islands in the closing days of the war. The Japanese inhabitants were expelled and some 25,000 Russian citizens now live there.

"I advocate new policies, to be implemented by the present leaders. But they don't have much time. If they don't act soon, Yeltsin could have to resign."

Bush deals forcefully with post-hurricane gusts

WASHINGTON (R) — Lavishing attention and taxpayer dollars on the hapless victims of hurricane Andrew, President George Bush has acted to blow away criticism of the way he first handled the disaster.

In case anyone might miss the point, he demanded five valuable minutes of national prime-time television Tuesday night to remind them that he was in charge, and that he cared.

The presidential broadcast capped a whirlwind trip to south Florida and Louisiana Tuesday to inspect the devastation left behind by Andrew and to assure victims he would pay any price to help them rebuild their shattered lives.

Eight days after Andrew rampaged across Florida and Louisiana and left up to 250,000 people homeless, Mr. Bush's message was that Americans should "pitch in any way you can."

Like the master-of-ceremonies at a charity telethon, he told them how they could help by twice repeating the toll-free telephone number for the American Red Cross in "a special appeal to the generous spirit of the American people."

It was only his 10th speech to the nation from the White House Oval Office in four years. The others dealt with such topics as the Gulf war and the invasion of Panama.

Mr. Bush pook-pooked reporters' suggestions that he was motivated by Florida's critical 25 electoral votes in his uphill race against Democrat Bill Clinton in November's election. But he was clearly pained by criticism heaped on him last week for the four days it took to send federal troops to help out.

A poll last week showed that by a 57-35 per cent margin, Americans think Mr. Bush cared

more for the victims in Iraq and Bosnia than in Florida and Louisiana.

So now there are nearly 20,000 troops working round-the-clock in Florida. Mr. Bush has waived the usual 25 per cent cost to local government of the federal cleanup effort.

Billions of taxpayer dollars will be rolling into Florida and Louisiana to help out and Homestead Air Force Base, destroyed by the hurricane and due to be shuttered anyway by Congress, will be rebuilt by Mr. Bush, who has rediscovered its strategic importance.

"We're in this for the long haul," the president said. "We won't leave before the job is done."

Mr. Bush will be a hard act for Clinton to follow when he visits Florida Thursday.

Mr. Bush cannot afford to lose Florida. With 25 electoral votes, the fourth-largest state bloc, it is

all the more important to Mr. Bush this year because he is in deep political trouble in the most populous state, California, and elsewhere.

Mr. Bush will spread more presidential largesse when he resumes the vote hunt in south Dakota and Texas.

The White House said he will be making "campaign speeches with an agricultural slant," but sources in Congress said he would announce the release of \$755 million in disaster aid for farmers — including those hit by hurricane Andrew — and new export enhancement initiatives to support sagging wheat prices.

Members of the Texas congressional delegation said that in Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Bush would announce his support for the sale of 150 F-16 fighters to Taiwan.

General Dynamics operates a plant in Fort Worth where the F-16 is built. Texas has 32 electoral votes.

COLUMN

Liz Taylor walks out of news conference in tears

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — Movie star Elizabeth Taylor broke down in tears and abruptly walked out of a news conference, upset over questions about her elderly mother who was brought to hospital. Sarah Taylor was taken to hospital after falling at her home in an exclusive desert retirement community near the resort of Palm Springs 120 miles (190 km) east of Los Angeles. Jeff Leuberg, a spokeswoman for the Eisenhower Medical Centre, said the elder Taylor broke her ankle. "She's fine, she's resting comfortably," he added. The 60-year-old actress, who arrived one hour late for her news conference to announce a fundraising effort for the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, had been told her mother's condition was much worse. Taylor said she was "very worried" about her mother. "Who wouldn't be? She's 96," she told a questioner. After answering questions about her AIDS project, Taylor turned on a reporter whose question indicated that her appearance at the news conference despite her mother's condition showed her dedication to the AIDS cause: "Are you saying I don't care about my mother?" she replied. Taylor then broke down in tears, saying "That's it. The press conference is over. I'm sorry. I can't take any more."

Catholics pray as apparition hour passes

COLD SPRING, Kentucky (R) — Flashguns lit up the midnight sky around a church in this small American town as thousands of Roman Catholics gathered — apparently in vain — to see a promised apparition by the Virgin Mary. The Rev. Leroy Smith, who had predicted the apparition at midnight on Aug. 31, made no public comment after a 2-1/2 hour vigil inside St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. He had said in advance that he would say nothing until he consulted his bishop. Inside the church, some 1,000 worshippers prayed as midnight passed. Cameras and recording equipment were forbidden. Outside, more than 5,000 faithful, far fewer than the 100,000 some town officials predicted, waited in a car park. Many tried to capture the moment with flash cameras.

High cost shelves plan for Peking toilet reform

PEKING (R) — Dreams for a super modern solution to the smelly public toilets in China's capital, Peking have gone down the drain. A Taiwan businessman had hoped to sponsor Peking's first joint-venture toilet — beautifully appointed and self-cleaning — but the plans foundered when officials realised that most ordinary people could never afford to use it, the Peking Daily said. To make the venture work financially, people would have to pay between five yuan and 10 yuan (\$1-2) for each visit — about what an ordinary worker can earn in a day. Other foreign plans for an end to the dank public privies that send foul smells wafting into many homes have also been rejected because their "charges are not suitable for China's national condition," the newspaper said.

U.S. Navy trains last would-be brides

SUBIC NAVAL BASE, Philippines (R) — The last United States servicemen don't leave the Philippines until December, but the bride school at Subic Naval Base is already being wound up. Thirty prospective Philippine spouses joined the final school last week to learn the secret of a happy cross-cultural marriage — everything from how to cook an American breakfast, writing a will, operating a microwave oven and good grooming. About 23,000 Filipinos have gone through bride school since it began in 1972 as a prerequisite for those planning to marry U.S. servicemen. Of them, 19,000 women got the go-ahead to marry their boyfriends.

Burmese troops take elephants hostage

MAE SOT, Thailand (R) — Burmese troops are holding 12 Thai elephants for ransom, Thai border sources said. The elephants, along with 18 Thai villagers, were seized by the soldiers for logging on the Burmese side of the border opposite Thailand's Tak district. The soldiers have demanded 700,000 baht (\$28,000) for the release of the men and beasts, the sources said.